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Issue 480

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Photo courtesy of the Guthrie Theater



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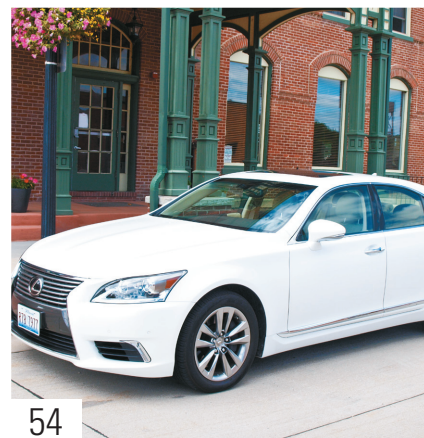
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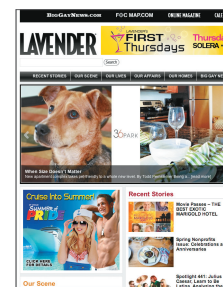
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FROM THE EDITOR | Andy Lien

This Halloween Issue is something that has been in the making for two years. When I started this position as Managing Editor, the learning curve was steep (and still is, in many ways). What I learned early on when we had a photo shoot with a drag queen and some sailors from HMS Pinafore at the Guthrie is that if I could think it up and make it happen, it would happen. How many of us get to say that? Holy cow, I'm lucky. It took the two years since to figure out how to make it happen, which is something that comes with experience of the industry and knowledge of the people. Then, the timing. The timing was crucial because, at this time last year, the editorial calendar was made almost secondary to the election coverage and the campaign against the marriage amendment. That's when I tried to pull most coverage to the conservative for the good of the community. Nobody needed to spook the straights, particularly when they were going to be voting on the rights of this community.

Now that marriage equality is a reality, I'm not going to say that it's time to just let our freak flags fly, but, okay, yes I am. And, by saying freak flag, I don't mean it as a negative. I mean that it's time to not let this community's sense of expression be curtailed by double standards, holding the people of this community hostage and closeted from even just dressing for Halloween in any way, shape, or form we might choose. As Brett Dorrian says later in her Halloween How-To feature, the sky is the limit. Let's go there.

So we did. Because we can.

Every two weeks when I plan content for this magazine, I keep in mind that Lavender can do a great many things that other publications can't; so we should. Because the point of this publication is to embrace all colors of the rainbow, the "rules" are up to us. Genders can be more fluid, depictions of characters can be more open to interpretation. So, we cracked the world of Halloween costumes open and took advantage of this position of privilege. Don Draper with spirit gum stubble? Got it. Really gorgeous "real housewives" played by gay softball players in drag? They're in here. Superheros are played by the drag, trans, and queer kings and performers. Other queer and allied burlesque performers actually put on clothes—rather than suggestively taking them off—for this piece, something which asked them to be fluid, but in a different way than usual. The same goes for Mrs. Smith who, usually looking for her cat Carlyle with a big Gibson Girl wig on her head, actually appears via her actor's original gender, as Sherlock Holmes. We asked these performers to step outside of their usual chosen performance comfort zones and do what the rest of us will be doing: assume different roles for the most fun holiday of the year.

Once I'd made the shift in my head that this year was the year to really stake our claim on Halloween and go for the proverbial gold, it was all a matter of making the plans and putting them into action. This is where the aforementioned experience and knowledge was critical to the success of the project. How would we pull off multiple shoots with multiple models and multiple teams in about a month of time?

Talking to Morgan Ross, who's one of our newest Lavender team members, the plans started taking shape for exactly what this Halloween issue could be. Morgan and I started bandying around ideas and mentioning names and groups of people who could be asked to participate. It was a matter of which was the cart and which was the horse—do we start with the models and then determine which themes to depict and how to go about depicting them, or the other way around? This was when we called in Brett Dorrian for a consultation.

Brett is a makeup artist who worked with us in last fall's Wedding Issue which was on stands pretty much a year ago, when we were voting against the marriage amendment (Brett! It's our anniversary!). I knew from talk-



Nightmare Dream Team: Brett Dorrian, Andy Lien, and Morgan Ross

ing to her then that she could not only make brides and grooms look picture-perfect for their big days, but that she was also the makeup and special effects person behind The Soap Factory's blockbuster haunted basement in recent years. So, naturally, when it came time to think of who could assist us with pulling off a Halloween costume and makeup how-to, nobody else came to mind but Brett. In a matter of an hour-long meeting with Morgan and Brett, we conceived a list of themes and possible participants and costumers, with the lofty goal of getting it all done within a few weeks' time. What seemed like a farfetched dream was met with Brett's as-

essment: "I can do it. All." And we never looked back.

Each of us started reaching out to people who are both ridiculously talented as well as interested in publicity. And the response was tremendous. We had yeses every which way we turned. The circle of talent expanded and soon we had all the pieces put into place and ready to go.

A term from my corporate past is the "multiplication of talents," which pretty much means that we find what people are good at and let them do their things. The same applies to this situation; once the pros were called in and given their directions, they showed up with their newly acquired zombie outfits and sheriff or trucker hats and thrift-store sourced items to become the roles that they were assigned. The multiplication of talents: find the pros and let them do exactly what they're hard-wired to do—creative problem-solving and artistic expression. Some of them were asked to simply show up as blank canvases, others were asked to bring their whole Halloween concept to the shoots. And they all did so, perfectly.

As I look at the images, I don't see the performers or community members, I see who the performers are portraying. Blowtorch is Prince Charming, Tea is Snow White. Bart is Andrea, Mistress Victoria is Lafayette, Karri is Alcide. The piece de resistance is that a shape-shifting character that usually goes from being a man to being a dog is depicted by a pup from the kink community. There are layers to the meanings within each theme and who is playing which role. This is a testament to both the ability of our publication to think outside the box as well as the willingness of our community's people and performers to actually go there.

Take this issue and apply it to our regular lives, too. Sure, Halloween is a time when everyone who participates in it—from young to old—gets to step outside of our normal and express ourselves in a playful way. But, see what it means for our daily lives, too. See that finding that freedom to be comfortable in someone else's skin or life for a night or a party is something we can do more often and regularly. Karri, one of the participants in this feature, once mentioned to me last year that it'll be important for this community to not forget how diverse we are—but how hard we worked together against the marriage amendment and for marriage equality—when we're no longer actively campaigning together. The person fighting next to us against that discrimination might be into leather or kink (or whatever...perhaps drag or adopting children or going to the seminary) and that's part of what we're fighting for: the ability to be free to express ourselves however we choose. I keep that conversation in mind as I progress through the editorial calendar and am extremely grateful to be able to make that notion more clear in this issue. However the members of this community choose to express themselves is acceptable and valid, whether it's Halloween or a generic Tuesday.

Whether you decide to celebrate Halloween by dressing up in costume or makeup or not, I wish you a very happy holiday. It's a time when the world gets to step into a bit of whimsy...somewhere I wish we'd visit more often.

I hope you have as much fun as we did.

With thanks,

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“A Hug Or A Hiding? Please Check The Box”

When Leeds, Alabama, mom Wendy Chandler received her daughter's back-to-school packet in August, she was appalled to discover a form she could sign to allow teachers to administer physical force as a disciplinary aid. The “Corporal Punishment Parental Consent Form” was sent to all Leeds Elementary School parents, further warning that not returning the form would indicate implicit consent. In fact, if parents do not wish their child to be—What: Spanked? Whipped? Stoned?—then they must inform the school principal not once, but annually.

Chandler told the *Huffington Post*, “I really thought I was seeing things. I had to read it a few times. I checked off the ‘no’ box, but I realized a lot of kids are going to have the ‘yes’ box checked off.”

After checking an emphatic “No,” she wrote, “I can not imagine how it would ever be OK to show violence towards anyone. Hitting a child is beyond disgraceful. Anyone who could hit a child should be put in jail.”

Quoting the Center for Effective Discipline, (CED; www.stophitting.com), The Huffington Post reported that Leeds is one of many

school districts in 19 states that allow school administrators to use physical force against students. The article noted that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil rights reported that during the 2005–06 school year, 223,190 school children in the country (including 4.5 percent of Alabama Students, for the third-highest rate in the nation) were disciplined by educators employing physical force.

Punishment, corporal or otherwise, is a complex subject, and not one easily sorted out. My own mother was beaten often and severely, yet she never hit me. My dad gave me a switching—once—after telling me what he was going to do and why. It was effective; but they would never have allowed another person to touch me.

And speaking of touching: is it not ironic that a teacher is allowed to strike your child, while a comforting hug or pat might get that same teacher fired?

Chandler concluded by saying, “I really don't know what I'm doing, I'm just trying to change the rules. My immediate concern is for all those other kids [whose parents checked yes] because those children are my child's future colleagues and neighbors.” ■

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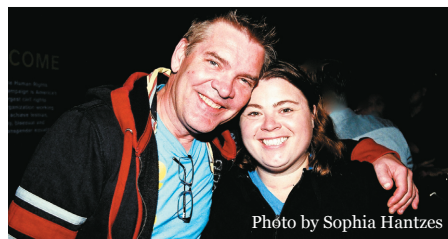


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October 26 • 8-11pm

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Hey, the column is called Bear With Me, so shouldn't there be a "Bear" event listed? Join the North Country Bears for their monthly Bear Bar Night in the Bolt Underground. \$7 gets you a cup for keg beer, pop, and a whole lot of burly bears, Grrr. Visit www.ncbears.com for more info.

AFTER A YEAR OF EQUALITY – NOW WHAT?

October 29 • 5pm

Ameriprise Financial Client Service Center • 901 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis

You don't need to be told this has been a historic year for the GLBT community in Minnesota and the U.S. But now that we've secured marriage equality in Minnesota and defeated DOMA, how do you plan effectively for our new reality? Join the Ameriprise Financial PRIDE Employee Network and a panel of professionals who can help you think about new ways to plan ahead and make the most of our hard-won rights. The event is free to attend and includes a networking reception with refreshments served. To RSVP, email PrideNetwork@ampf.com by Wednesday, October 23.

PRINCESS DIANA, THE MUSICAL

November 1 – December 1 • Thursdays – Saturdays at 7pm, Sundays at 5pm

Camp Bar • 490 N. Robert St., St. Paul
This summer's production of Princess Diana, The Musical was such a rousing success that it's coming back this fall! *Princess Diana the Musical* follows "The People's Princess" on her journey from an unknown 17-year old to the most famous woman in the world. The story focuses on Prince Charles and Diana from their courtship and marriage to their divorce and that fateful day in August of 1997. Visit www.camp-bar.net/princess for more information.

DANCE!DANCE!

November 3 • 5-9pm

Aria • 105 N. 1st St., Minneapolis

Rainbow Health Initiative invites you to join them for a night of food, beverage, silent auction, live auction, music and DANCE: everything from ballet to burlesque! For more information, go to www.rainbowhealth.org or contact Tiffany at 612-206-3180 or tiffany.paulson@rainbowhealth.org ☐



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Charlotte's Web. Photo by Dan Norman

BASED ON A TOTALLY TRUE STORY**Oct. 11 – 26****People's Center, 425 20th Av. S., Mpls.****boomtheatremn.org**

In Roberto Aguirre-Secasa's play, protagonist Ethan (Patrick Kozicky), comic book author and playwright, gets a privileged opportunity to write a Hollywood script. But he runs into major problems when he tries to please his dad, his boyfriend, and his agent. Kozicky points out that "Ethan is gay but his sexual identity isn't a story line. In the show Ethan deals with stress from work, his relationship and his family. He is smart, funny, and flawed. You root for Ethan because he is relatable to everyone. The fact that he's gay has nothing to do with the story. It's just part of what makes him who he is. Certainly we still have a long road ahead of us when it comes to equality but I am excited to find scripts that show LGBT characters dealing with life, rather than dealing with LGBT themes. I think it is incredibly important that we do our part to normalize sexual identity."

You may recall Kozicky's brilliant performance in Trista Baldwin's *American Sexy* at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and the Guthrie in recent years. BOOM! Theatre and its core artists have also created some hard-hitting theater that deals with issues of human intimacy and social expectations. Last year they presented Gemma Irish's *Engaged* which looked at the idea of marriage. It was their part in the effort to elevate the discourse around the marriage debate. Obviously, BOOM! was on the winning side!

CHARLOTTE'S WEB**Through Oct. 27****Children's Theatre Company, 2400 Third Av. S., Mpls.****(612) 874-0400****www.childrenstheatre.org**

E.B. White's 1952 children's novel, faithfully adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette, is a feast of terrific physical acting performances by humans playing nonhuman animals. Director Greg Banks is known for his very kinetic, almost bedazzling style, with Children's Theatre productions of *Robin Hood* and *Pinocchio*, but with *Charlotte's Web* he is more straightforward, and dare I say, realistic. At the core of the story is spider Charlotte's willingness to rescue Wilbur the pig, from certain slaughter. No one says she has to save him, but she chooses to do it and in doing so she makes a powerful sacrifice. Some might call it unconditional love.

Joanna Harmon gives a poignant and superb physical performance as Charlotte. She repels from the rafters and creates a sweet friendship through dialogue and actions with Wilbur. Played with innocent sweetness by Ethan Davenport, he effectively has us consider the horror that Wilbur or any animal could go through in anticipation of being slaughtered. It will give

meat-eaters something to chew on. Reed Sigmund brings swaggering seediness to Templeton, the rat who appears to have no scruples. All animal characters are vividly portrayed with animal characteristics. Joseph Stanley's midwestern barn and fair settings are spot on. With *Charlotte's Web*, CTC has shaped a rich comedy that makes us consider the anguish that 'the other' may be enduring. Especially if he's awaiting the 'privilege' to be served at your dinner table.

Q-STAGE NEW WORKS SERIES**Through Oct. 27****Nimbus Theatre,****1517 Central Av. N., Mpls.****(612) 227-1188****www.tctwentypercent.org**

20% Theatre, admired for their impressive body of feminist and trans work, launches their eighth season with three sets of queer-oriented stage works. They perform at various times so you'll need to check their website for that. If you want a serious look at gay history, consider Donn Saylor's performance as William Haines the gay silent film star, titled *Pilgrim Soul: The Life of William Haines*. When movie mogul Louie B. Mayer compelled Saylor to choose his film acting career or the man he loved, Saylor chose the man he loved. And paid the career price. *Trust in Chaos* by Nathan Gebhard and Kris Gebhard use poetry, marimba music, and dance as agents of healing. It shares the story of Kris's two month stay in a hospital with a traumatic brain injury. The gay marriage crowd can take in Homo Hotdish's *I DO! I DO!* and the Lori and Julia radio crowd who love to kvetch about rotten exes have Paige Collette's *Bitter Victory, Sweet Defeat*.

There's a stereotype that gay men are the ultimate opera lovers but Anna Sutheim's *Singing OUT* challenges that. An image of the young lesbian is that she must necessarily be into Ani DiFranco, k.d. lang, and Tegan and Sara. But not everyone moves to the same tune. Sutheim shows how Strauss, Ravel, and Handel can be just as inspiring. Puck Matz and Juliann Prohovsky go magical with *Catch*



the road weeps, the well runs dry Photo by Michal Daniel

a *Falling Star* about a lost little star and a lost little girl. In sum, when it comes to short stage works, 20% always delivers strong and provocative work.

THE ROAD WEEPS, THE WELL RUNS DRY

Through Oct. 27

Pillsbury House, Chicago Av., Mpls.

(612) 825-0459

www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

There's a general tendency to sweep issues that crop up *between* marginalized people under the rug. It's so much easier just to say that the rich white man is the bad guy and everyone beneath him is just a martyred saint. But the day that minority people – queer folk, persons of color, marginalized women- start to acknowledge and address their own internicine differences will be a day of exponential positive growth. Marion McClinton directs one of the most accomplished casts you will ever see on a Twin Cities stage. That alone is worth visiting Pillsbury House to see the production. Another good reason is that the play looks into the Native American/ First Nations concept of two-spiritedness, wherein a person embodies both masculine and feminine spirits.

Playwright Marcus Gardley shares that two-spirited and same-gender loving themes are at the heart of his poetic epic about the emigration of a group of Freed men -Black and Seminole people- from Florida to present day Wewoka, Oklahoma. He says "without giving too much away, the two central male characters have a sordid love affair before their tribe migrates West but once they set camp in Oklahoma, this love is challenged and a riff is sparked between them. It was important for me to show how two-spirited love was celebrated in the past and how they grappled with the changing times once their tribesmen changed their view on sexual relations. This was primarily due to a change in religious beliefs. In a lot of ways this play is an illuminating account of a brief history and a call to action for our communities to unite against prejudice for the sake of the future."

A STRANGE AND SEPARATE PEOPLE

Through Nov. 3

Hillcrest Center Theater, 1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul

(651) 647-4325

www.mnjewishtheatre.org

If you haven't been to Minnesota Jewish Theatre you don't know what you are missing. If you've stayed away because you are not

Jewish, you are under a misapprehension. For more than a few years MJTC has been producing rich, complex, and entertaining plays at a high professional standard. Many selections reveal schisms within Jewish communities which anyone can find a side to relate to. Though homosexuality has been dealt with in previous MJTC productions, *A Strange and Separate People* by Jon Marans, is a unique perspective that should be seen by as many people as possible.

Nate Cheeseman shares that the play "explores the compatibility -or lack thereof- between religion and homosexuality. On the upper west side of Manhattan, my character, Stuart, begins the play openly gay and a recent member of the Jewish Orthodox religion. In the beginning, he believes that he can follow the laws of the Torah while still maintaining his sexual identity. However during his relationship with a fellow orthodox man he finds he cannot make the two work together. Stuart's relationship with Jay (Brandon Bruce) is compelling. Jay follows more or less the opposite journey to Stuart. Jay starts the play in the closet and married to a woman named Phyllis (Elena Gianetti). As the play progresses we see Jay emerge through his insecurities and become more and more open about his homosexuality." Cheeseman adds that he loves working with the cast and director Kurt Schweickhardt.

Producer Barbara Brooks

adds "the overarching theme of Jon's plays tend to address self-discovery and struggling with one's personal beliefs." She expects the show to encourage discussion and hopefully, understanding and acceptance. Indeed, Brooks has been a champion of plays that do cause intelligent discussion and the quality of work at MJTC has evolved quite notably under her Producing Artistic Directorship.

Brooks understands that issues of gender and sexual orientation need to be a part of our larger social discourse. A discourse open to Jews and non-Jews alike.

UNRAVELED

Oct. 26 – Nov. 10

Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove St., Mpls.

(612) 721-1186

www.theatreunbound.com

Jennifer Blackmer's new play takes on issues around being a daughter whose mother slips into severe dementia. At Theatre Unbound, the area's acclaimed women's theater troupe, Rebecca Yoho plays Joy, the daughter of George, actually played by two actresses, Kristen Mathisen and Carin Leonard Gorriell. Jamila Anderson and Eli Coats round out the supporting cast. For those who are have been or will soon be starting to deal with aging parents this is a must-see production. People may be living longer but having to struggle with disabilities exacerbated by aging can create a dreary time for both the suffering elder and those looking after him or her.

Director Mary Cutler reflects "mother-daughter relationships are fraught. Perhaps not a factual statement, but opinion, due to my location as a daughter. However, immense numbers of daughters -those with healthy relationships with their mothers or dysfunctional ones- connect around this very issue offered in our human beingness. Especially our mothers' life transitions brim with disorientation for both generations. As a daughter I desired to hang onto my mother's familiar persona vs. facing the awkward role reversal she presented, for which I was as prepared for as living on the moon." Cutler directed Brazen Theatre's vibrant revival of the gay comedy, *Jeffrey*, a few years ago. She also gave a bright butch performance in Theatre in the Round's recent *In the Restroom at Rosenblooms*. ◻



How a Gay-Themed Fringe Show Has Expanded and Advanced to the Nation's Flagship Regional Theater

A Chat with Guthrie Artistic Director Joe Dowling about 'Skiing on Broken Glass'

Guthrie Theater Artistic Director Joe Dowling is known for brilliant productions of classic and contemporary plays but for the past year he has been nurturing the development of the 2010 Minnesota Fringe Festival Hit, *Skiing on Broken Glass* by David Goldstein. The script was already bold in its two-character, one act Fringe form, but it promises to be even more hard-hitting in its Guthrie expansion at the theater's Dowling Studio. Michael Booth and David Darrow play Mark and Todd. Mark is a middle-aged writer traumatized by the loss of his partner years previously. Todd is a young sex worker he falls in love with. The new version examines not only how they deal with their relationship but how the outside world sees their relationship. That's where Guthrie actor regulars, Michele O'Neill and Bill McCallum, figure into the equation.

I spoke with Dowling the day before the rehearsal process started in early October.

JT: Tell me about how this play has been developed.

JD: I saw the play at the Fringe Festival three years ago. God, time moves fast. David Goldstein has been a friend for a long time. I saw a reading of a musical he did and was impressed. He has a distinctive voice. But I was very impressed with *Skiing on Broken Glass* because he was skirting, it seemed to me, with big issues: love and loss and commitment and suitability and how we view relationships. So I said to him at the time, I think you should expand this. I don't think you should leave it as a two-hander because a two-hander doesn't allow you to really test the relationship against what other people might (express). You're in a relationship, you're not seeing the outside world. So my suggestion to him was that he look at someone coming in who would find this relationship rather difficult. So he created the character of Edith (Michele O'Neill) who is best friend of Mark the writer. She arrives, so the whole dynamic of the play shifts at that point, from the two bruised figures that Todd and Mark are, to how does the outside world view this middle-aged man taking up with a young hooker in his early 20s. So we did a short workshop of the play around table about a year ago now where we heeded some other major changes again after the workshop. He had in the original play a lot of monologues where characters talk to the audience. That always strikes me as being a kind of a cop-out for a writer in some ways. Let's see how you can do in dialogue as opposed to monologue. And he went away and rewrote it and at that point I thought this is worth a production. Then I decided I would direct it myself since I had shepherded it with David over the years, rather than hand it over to another director. So that's how it all came to be.

JT: How does Edith see the relationship when she finds out?

JD: Well, she's horrified! Because she doesn't understand the relationship. She doesn't understand the bruised nature of Todd's upbringing. The way in which Mark needs to be that protector, as well as the nature of their relationship, is a mystery to Edith. But then Edith brings her fiancé in. The dynamics between the four of them in the play are fascinating. David has found a way of being both provocative, because the plot twists are quite provocative. And at the same time, when we come away from it, our sympathies lie with the good guys.

JT: I've never been one to look down on intergenerational adult romance, whatever the sexual orientation. It's the business only of the two people involved. Love is where you find it. But Goldstein seems to open up that prejudice so many people have about that.

JD: I think the prejudice is two-fold in this play because it's (1) about the generation thing. Todd is in his early 20s and in a way people laugh about the idea of a boy-toi. And Mark is a 45 to 50 year old man. But you're right, love, wherever it's found, is love. That's what the play's about. But I think (the other prejudice is) the fact that Todd is a prostitute and continues to be, through the relationship. He doesn't stop. And he says at one point, this

is what I do, it's not who I am. And I think that becomes for a lot of people, where the uncomfortable nature of the relationship is. In the early parts of the play you get the sense that Mark is quite naive about this, about that kind of world, that sort of *demimonde* of prostitution - to actually invite that into your home and not say if you want this relationship with me and you want to live with me stop doing this and we have to start again. He doesn't do that. He sees Todd for what he is and ultimately that I think is where the age thing is one factor, but (the continued prostitution aspect) that's the much much more telling factor, that Todd sells his body for sex.

JT: What does David Darrow bring to the role of Todd?

JD: I have not worked with him before but I had seen David in Theater Latte Da's *Spring Awakening* and *Beautiful Thing* and a couple of other things through the years and he is a remarkable young actor. What he brings to this, I think, is an edge and a rawness. We auditioned every young man we could. There are a lot of our young actors that are from our BFA program who I was hoping would come through and do wonderfully well. But when David Darrow walked in, both David Goldstein and I looked at each other and went, we have our Todd, because he has an edge and a rawness and a vulnerability. And I think that's one of the key things to this role. This boy has to be vulnerable. You can't get the sense that he's simply kind of a hard ass. This is a very vulnerable hurt human being which is what Mark sees. And what we must see, (as) the audience, so that we're not judgemental about what he does - we're more understanding. Therefore, as the play unfolds we're rooting for him.

JT: And Michael Booth as Mark.

JD: Michael's done a number of things for us here (at the Guthrie). Of course, he's done a number of things at the Jungle and various places. I like his work a lot. He read Mark for us at the workshop. Both David and I felt he really kind've understood the character and understood the parameters required. Again, we did audition a number of people and we finally decided that what Michael brought to it in the workshop was what we wanted to develop in the full production.

JT: Can you say more about the conflicts within the play?

JD: What I love about this play and why I want to continue to work on it is that there are two very bruised, very vulnerable people: one who lost his partner some years before in a terrible accident and has never been able to find a way of getting through that, of moving on. And has always kept the house exactly as it was. Has almost become a shut in because his solitary occupation as a writer doesn't demand interaction in the outside world.

He then takes this step - many might criticize him or be judgemental about the step he takes - but it leads him to a place where he's tested as a human being as well as a lover. And Todd, this bruised young man, comes from these foster homes, this very tough existence and there's a mystery to what happened to him and his family. So here are these two kind've lonely people - both islands - they have to somehow try and bring that together. Dramaturgically, what David has set up is an impossible task. And I think what he's achieved in this play is at the end of the play, you care more for the people than you did at the beginning.

Skiing on Broken Glass

Oct. 29 - Nov. 17

Guthrie Theater, Dowling Studio, 818 2nd St., Mpls.

(612) 377-2224

www.guthrietheater.org

For photos of *Skiing on Broken Glass* and the unabridged interview, go to www.LavenderMagazine.com.

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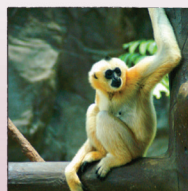
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ON THE RECORD | Ed Huyck



THE SUBURBS *Si Sauvage*

It may have taken more than a quarter century, but the quintessential Minnesota band of the 1980s finally has made its return. The band is older and wiser, but the eccentric spark that fueled many a sweaty night at the clubs is still present through this reunion album. The interplay between Chan Poling and Beej Chaney is intact, even though the years (and the 2009 death of guitarist Bruce Allen) have forced other lineup changes. Still, it's not just the familiar voices of Poling and Chaney that bring back fond memories – the distinct Suburbs vibe is still there. There is skittering punk and flash new wave sounds aplenty, but the overall maturity (check out the not-quite nostalgic “Dumb Ass Kids”) makes this a reunion album worth the wait.



ROBIN THICKE *Blurred Lines*

While the slick dance-pop star has garnered plenty of attention this summer after his VMA, um, performance with Miley Cyrus, the actual music on his latest album is a largely pleasurable (if rather saucy) stew of influences. By the time you read this, the title track is probably already played out, but the rest of the album keeps the grooves moving. Thicke evokes a mix of modern robo-dance and earlier funky styles, employing a definite soft spot for Prince (and not just using “U” and “4”). That combines to make for a breezy listen that employs enough hooks to keep the listener engaged from the opening title track down through the Kendrick Lamar collaboration “Give It 2 U” through Elton-John/Queen-like “The Good Life.”



NINE INCH NAILS *Hesitation Marks*

It's hard to imagine that it has been nearly a quarter century ago when Trent Reznor merged industrial clang and house-style beats into an act that was – for a time – one of the biggest on Earth. Since then, Reznor has wandered around the outer edges (well, in a pop sense) of electronic music, exploring how harsh the music could get but still be appealing to a mass audience. He errs on the mass side on *Hesitation Marks*, which provides some solid grooves but is seriously lacking in ambition. While the one-two shot of “Copy of a” and “Came Back Haunted” open the proceedings with a kick, the rest of the album sounds like filler – especially painful on an album that clocks in at over an hour.



THE CIVIL WARS *The Civil Wars*

Breakups make great music. Joy Williams and John Paul White spent a few years together as The Civil Wars before going on “hiatus” late last year and those differences are laid out in the sometimes painful tunes on the band's second (and likely final) album. The country-western style matches well with the heartbreak implied in the songs, while the touches of folk and rock combine to give the album a truly lush vibe. The musical, lyrical and emotional trappings combine elegantly on songs like “Devil's Backbone” and “Tell Mama,” evoking more than a century of music, culture and history in a few short minutes. Meanwhile, the gorgeous “Disarm” showcases the pair's beautiful harmonies – ones we are likely not going to hear again anytime soon. □



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Spicy gnocchi-like mochi to be topped with duck confit. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



THE RABBIT HOLE

A flash of something white skips past your peripheral vision. After turning your head fast enough to shake loose any misconceptions about the Earth being at a stand-still, it's hard not to follow that indefinable something. There's a moment where the choice must be made to either keep those two feet planted firmly on the ground of all that is known and staid, or take the leap and fall ass over teacup down The Rabbit Hole.

Thomas Kim and Kat Melgaard are on their way into a whole new world at Midtown Global Market. It's one that includes a beautiful new room, built almost entirely by their four hands, a restaurant that suits

the unique neighborhood, perfect for both the punky bike gangs that build those sky-high mobile art installations and the 9-5 workers from nearby offices.

The two first arrived in Minneapolis from Los Angeles with the idea to open a hip little restaurant where they could put Melgaard's keen eye for design in play with Kim's considerably culinary chops. After searching for the right place to call their home, they decided those plans would have to be changed. Rather than a restaurant, they set up shop at a stall inside Midtown Global Market. A melting pot of cuisines, business, cultures and eclectic

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Confit-cooked potatoes with pesto and parmesan; Ultra-crispy chicken wings; It won't be hard to eat your vegetables. Photos by Hubert Bonnet

Minneapolis neighborhood's, the location would prove to be fortuitous.

The Left Handed Cook (Melgaard's nickname for southpaw Kim) would become a darling of the restaurant industry. Other chefs could be seen spotted at the corner talking shop and modern cuisine technique with Kim while critics were swooning over their 21 spice fried chicken. The infatuation bloomed to a full on sloppy kisses where backroom groping of their decadent dishes became de rigueur for their growing legion of shameless fans. [Read more about them in one of my past raves at www.lavender-magazine.com/our-scene/slice-the-left-handed-cook/]

Still, the dream of a restaurant with walls and a full liquor license tugged at the corners of their minds. They looked at real estate and were wooed into considering a space closer to home than they had ever considered. At the edge of the open market was a restaurant space that had once been home to a cafeteria-style sushi spot. Walls had been built, enclosing the space as another restaurant planned to move in before those plans fell apart. It was a space in need of the right owners.

The two of them walked through, trying to feel out what it wanted to become. It seemed insane as they already had one restaurant humming along and the two had just discovered that another deadline was fast approaching (the impending birth of their first child). Together, they locked hands and decided to fully jump in and build their

new wonderland.

The tall booths, crafted by Kim, are modest enough that they don't take up too much space. But, with their high walls and backs, the booths create a maze of cozy private-sort-of-romantic seating at the back of the room. The kitchen is wide open and facing the door. Guests can choose to belly up and watch Kim along with his line cooks create dishes of vibrant colors, fragrant spices, and his brand of twisted takes on Asian street and comfort foods. One preview dish we tasted was duck-fat-fried mochi – rice cake-like dumplings, bathed in a bright red sauce that was entirely new, yet tasted like a Korean gnocchi. They also have dishes more familiar to the onion ring/hamburger fans, perfect for pairing with an ice-cold Fulton brew.

They've also installed a full bar, accented with steam-punk looking light fixtures. The goal was to capture the fun vibe of communal dining on the streets of Korea with a Midwestern date night destination and give it all the soul of a dive bar.

Winding through the bars and booths is a bit like walking a maze where something wonderful might wait around every corner. A rabbit hole, if you will. ◻

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LAVENDER'S HALLOWEEN HOW-TO

Produced by Andy Lien, Morgan Ross, & Brett Dorrian



Written by Brett Dorrian

Halloween is just around the corner. For one night, you can be whoever you want to be, and everything is fair game. For some, it's a night to see and be seen. For others, it's simply having a good time while you step out of your comfort zone of wardrobe and mannerisms, to take a leap into a character's shoes (figuratively and literally). Some people plan for Halloween for months beforehand as a meticulously anticipated event (cue the creepy organ and brain Jello molds). But, some people jump on the bandwagon of participation last minute (cue the 'what's in my closet...' costume). No matter what your style is, the sky is the limit as to what you could go as.

My time training for Character and Special Effects Design in L.A. taught me about how every character needs a back story. One of the most imaginative things you can do to enhance your character when dressing up is to figure out their walk of life. It's not just a black eye—she was injured in a car crash after her heart was broken and she drove away crying in a blizzard.

Heavy? Of course. Interesting? Definitely.

Then I got to see the evolution of the grand madness of Halloween enthusiasm during my 2.5 years as the Haunted Basement's Special Effects Makeup Designer. People were hungry to learn easy makeup techniques for their Halloween ideas. Between that and the rise of October events in the Twin Cities over the past few years, Halloween designs have become both exciting and daunting. People came to my studio asking, "Well what should I be and how do I do that?"

Thus, we present you with this Halloween How-To resource guide. Inspired by popular shows and characters, we have put together accessible ideas for your makeup and costume options this season. Whether you are on a budget, don't have a lot of time, want something easy, or want to go all out, there's something for everyone. You can be ghoulishly sexy, terrifyingly gorey, smartly dressed, or fantastically funny. Your world awaits. Happy Haunting!

Go to the Online Magazine at www.LavenderMagazine.com or on iPad/iPhone/smartphone to see more photos!

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Inspired by THE WALKING

Photography: Ryan Coit Photography
Models: WerQ Events - Left to right: DJ Multidimensional Fortitude (DJ MF) as the Governor; Bart Ruff as Andrea; Paul Whittemore as Daryl; Bill Rolon as Rick; Dyani Lee as Michonne; Travis Winship, Eli McKinney, and Omar Pineda as zombies.
Costumes: Models' own, thrift stores
Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

The Walking Dead is one of the hottest shows on television right now. From Daryl to Andrea to Rick and Michonne to the Governor- not to mention any random zombie horde- the possibilities are plentiful to gather up a *Walking Dead*-themed crew to go out with on Halloween. Zombies have been highly popular in the past few years in general, and one of the reasons why is that there is very little barrier to entry to dress up

like a zombie. And let's face it, zombies are awesome. You can source your own clothing from a thrift store or your closet. And if you want to get creative, the sky is the limit. Are you a marching band member zombie? A sea captain zombie? A renaissance princess zombie? A white trash zombie? There is so much fun to be had when you come up with the details of your costume, especially with friends so your group can have a theme.



DEAD

As you create your character, ask yourself, “How long ago did I become a zombie? Am I pretty old and rotten, or was I freshly turned?” That plays into how much dark blood vs. bright blood you may want to use for makeup, as well as the degree to which you would try creating ripped, dead flesh (not to mention how dirty you are from haphazardly stumbling through the post-apocalyptic world). And remember our typical

zombie lore: zombies cannot have any fatal head wounds, otherwise they would be an all-the-way-dead zombie and couldn’t come out to play. Being a zombie is the ultimate blood and guts option for Halloween.

Online at www.LavenderMagazine.com: Photo how-to tutorials for blood, gore, gashes, bullet wounds, and more!

What to Get:

Costumes: Dig through your closet or go to your nearest thrift store to become any one of the characters from *The Walking Dead*, or anywhere you choose to find your undead inspiration. Available from Halloween Express in Maplewood: Pirate Eye patch, \$1.49; Ninja Swords, \$5.99 each; FX Transfers Cut Throat, \$14.99; M16 Gun, \$7.99; Secret Agent Gun, \$6.99; Rasta Wig on Michonne, \$12.99.

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

www.halloweenexpressmn.com





How To Make Your Own Zombie

YOU CAN USE ANY ONE OF THESE TECHNIQUES, OR PAIR THEM TOGETHER TO CREATE YOUR ZOMBIE LOOK.

What to Get:

Ben Nye Thick Blood: Norcostco, \$4.00-\$35.00

Bright Liquid Blood: Norcostco, Mehron Squirt Blood "Arterial," \$2.50-\$11.95

Dark Liquid Blood: Norcostco, Mehron Squirt Blood "Dark," \$2.50-\$11.95

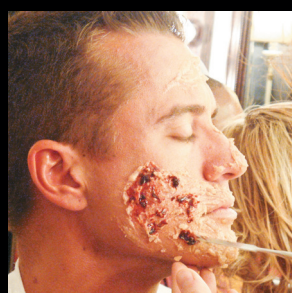
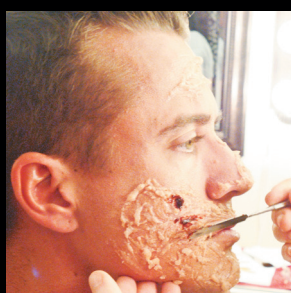
FX Transfers Cut Throat: Halloween Express in Maplewood, \$14.99

Liquid Latex: 4.5oz. Mehron Liquid Latex at Norcostco, \$10.95

3rd Degree Silicone Sculpting Product: Midwest Makeup Supply, \$24.00

Cosmetic Dirt: Norcostco, Mehron Dirt or Ash Powder, \$8.95

Setting Powder: Norcostco, Ben Nye Face Powder, \$5.00-\$13.00



Option 1 (Advanced) Sculpting Your Own Wounds:

1. 3rd Degree is a two-part silicone sculpting product. Use a metal mixing palette and metal palette knife (clean with 99% alcohol). If you're on a budget, mix with a popsicle stick on wax paper and throw away when done. Mix equal parts of the product from the two jars for about 20 seconds and then start putting it directly onto the skin where you want to create texture. It will start to set hard within two minutes, so work fast.

2. Once it's dry, put some foundation over it to color it flesh-toned.

3-4. Fill in the crevasses with Thick Blood for total gore. At the end of the night, just peel it off.



Option 2 (Intermediate) Adhering Premade Wounds and Creating Your Own Ripped Flesh):

1. Get a pre-made wound like FX Transfers Cut Throat from Halloween Express in Maplewood that can be adhered with light adhesive (sold with it) or water (some go on like a press-on tattoo). Viola! Super cut.

2. Use a sponge to dab on a layer of latex in the area you want to have ripped flesh. Pull a tissue apart so it's 1-ply instead of 2-ply and lay ripped pieces of it on top of the latex layer. Let it dry clear. Do another layer of latex and tissue. Repeat for 3-5 layers.

3. Once it's dry, paint it with foundation to look flesh-colored and powder.

4. Use a tweezers to pick up the top layer of painted tissue/latex. With your fingers and the tweezers, pinch that spot and start ripping a hole. Painted latex + tissue = ripped and/or rotting flesh. Once it's ripped open, add Thick Blood, Liquid Blood, and dirt to your preference.

Photography: Brett Dorrian
Artistry Studios
Location: The Van Dusen
Mansion
Models: Shannon Blowtorch
as Prince Charming and Tea
Simpson as Snow White
Costumes: Norcostco, styled
by Mandi Johnson
Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian
Artistry Studios

Snow White and Prince Charming is one of the first power couples we've come to know. The animated version of the fairytale came to the big screen in 1937. The idea of a fairytale romance has in many ways evolved into the idea of a fairytale wedding for modern couples. What a better way to showcase this iconic couple in costume than with the backdrop of one of the most dreamy, castle-like wedding venues in the state: the beautiful Van Dusen Mansion.

Dressing up as a fairytale couple has its advantages. You have a fairly minimal time investment. You can go to Norcostco for your costume rental and they will actually pull options, let you try things on, and help you decide your design. You can totally skip doing numerous trips to thrift stores and department stores trying to find the perfect thing to make your costume look authentic.

Dressing up as a fairytale couple totally lends itself to there being one person/character that is a little more involved than another, like the princess as compared to the prince. So, if your partner reeeeeeealllly wants to dress up for Halloween, this is a pretty painless way to participate that will score you major brownie points for being a good sport. May you live happily ever after...for Halloween and beyond!

What to Get:

Costumes: Rental at Norcostco includes your appointment to get measured and pick things out, the rental itself, and cleaning afterward (Snow White \$64.95, Prince Charming \$54.95). Halloween costume rental rates vary from \$45.95-71.95, depending on what you rent. You can also do the Halloween costume-in-a-bag version for \$64.95 at Norcostco. Snow Whites's hair net: Wave-O-Net 'The All Purpose Hair Cap' at Sally Beauty Supply, \$1.09.



Photography by Brett
 Dorrian Artistry Studios
 Location: The Van Dusen
 Mansion
 Models: David Hanbury as
 Sherlock Holmes, Andrew
 Rasmussen as Dr. Watson
 Costumes: Norcostco, styled
 by Mandi Johnson
 Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian
 Artistry Studios

Going as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson is the perfect option for a quality costume with little time investment for prep. All you need for this one is to walk into Norcostco during business hours and have one of their costumers measure you and create a design for you—with many options of color and pattern variations to suit your taste.

This is appropriate for anyone who enjoys looking well put together, yet is not the type of person to plan their costume for months, but wants to dress to impress. There is no call for makeup, just some gel in your hair combed back if you have longer hair so that you look more like a dapper gentleman.

Sherlock and Watson are always fondly celebrated, and are one of the easiest Halloween ideas for a dynamic duo that isn't necessarily looking to go as characters who are a couple or be too full of gore. If you have extra folks in your group, you can add Mrs. Smith (the housekeeper), a bobby cop, or even the bad guy you're chasing. Sherlock and Watson keep dressing up classy.

What to Get:

Costume rental at Norcostco. Rental includes your appointment to get measured and pick things out, the rental itself, and cleaning afterward (Sherlock \$64.95, Watson \$54.95). Halloween costume rental rates vary from \$45.95-71.95 depending on what you rent. Slicked hair: Murray's Hair Pomade at the drugstore, \$3.00.



www.norcostco.com



Inspired by SHERLOCK HOLMES & DOCTOR WATSON



Photography: Wijadi Jodi
Models: Sweetpea, Jax,
Vivienne Le Détruire
Costumes: Bettie Page Cloth-
ing (Mall of America)
Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian
Artistry Studios

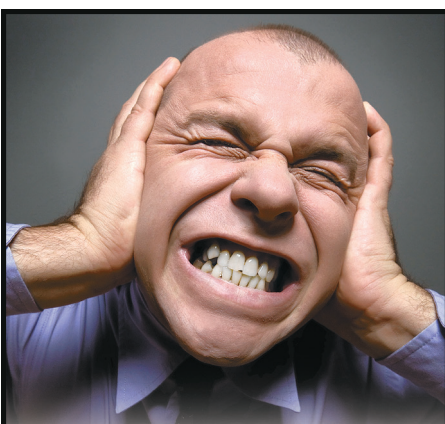
Mad Men-inspired Halloween looks are for the glamorous, darling. You can find vintage dresses or suits that are lovely enough to wear again to events. This is appropriate for those who love to dress up, but don't necessarily want to have a one-time costume or any messy special effects makeup. This is another option for the dress to impress—for individuals or groups. Feel free to accessorize with an Old Fashioned and a cigarette holder. Makeup in the '50s and '60s always had great eye liner on the top lash line. Everything from a doe eye to a cat eye is fair game. And of course, you need some great false eyelashes. Create a nice foundation and blush, but skip any contouring or shimmer for a proper vintage makeup. Structure the eyebrows, eyeliner, and lashes. Finish the look with a bold red or coral lip color. The hair should be big and sculpted for the women. The men can have a 5 o'clock shadow (a la our leading man, Mr. Don Draper) and dapper slicked back hair.

What to Get:

Costumes: Women's clothing from the *Mad Men* era is available for both glamour and workday looks at Bettie Page Clothing (Mall of America), men's suits can be found at thrift stores, in closets, or purchased at fine purveyors like JCPenney. Cake eye liner (the authentic method): Ben Nye in Black at Norcostco, \$7.00. User-friendly liquid eye liner (the modern method): Stila 'Stay All Day' liquid liner in Jet Black at Sephora, \$20.00. Lashes: Various styles available at Norcostco, \$5.00. Slicked hair: Murray's Hair Pomade at the drugstore, \$3.00.

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THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF HENNEPIN COUNTY



Photography: Mike Hnida

Models: Members of The Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL) - Left to right: Tony Wolff, Kele Bedell, Reggie Acker, Tyler Hayden, and Tim Mulhair.

Location: The Living Room at W Minneapolis-The Foshay

Costumes: Halloween Express in Maplewood

Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

Dressing up as the Real Housewives is for the fabulous. Gender bending is a total green light. These ladies are never without their cocktail in hand and this is a case where more is more. Big wigs, flashy dresses, and lots of makeup. It's easy to source some quick costumes and wigs by shopping the big supply stores that have everything in a bag and generic sizing.

If you are a man dressing up as a woman, there are a few options when it comes to makeup. The simplest and most budget friendly option is to borrow some bright lipstick and eyeliner from a lady friend. The other end of the spectrum is to go for a full drag makeup design with exaggerated contouring, lip, brow, and eye shapes. The middle option is to do a transformation makeup-which is beauty makeup that looks female but is done on a male. This makeup is pretty and is meant to look believable up close, but not at all comical.

What to Get:

Costumes: The guys had their own shoes, but for the rest of the clothing we wanted you to be able to walk into Halloween Express in Maplewood and ask for everything you see here, to make these costumes as easy as possible. You can pick from so many different options from small to plus-size costumes. In this shoot, we used Flapper Costume, \$39.99, with Rasta Wig, \$12.99; Cougar Catsuit, \$49.99, with Black Widow Wig, \$14.99; Pop A Rozzi Costume (with blonde wig and sunglasses), \$34.99; Retro Scarlet Rose Costume, \$24.99, with Pin Up Page Wig, \$13.99; Jersey Shore Jwoww Costume, \$39.99, with Sexy Super Model Wig, \$16.99, and fake lips by Effects Transfers Lip/Tuck, \$12.99.

A variety of levels of makeup for beauty or drag designs can be found at Halloween Express, Norcostco, and at Midwest Makeup Supply. A professional makeup application and/or lesson is \$80+ with a makeup artist.

Online at
www.LavenderMagazine.com:
How-to tutorial for transformative
makeup!

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS
www.halloweenexpressmn.com



Inspired by

THE AVENGERS

Online at www.LavenderMagazine.com: Photo how-to tutorials for facial stubble and going green as the Hulk with body paint and airbrush!



Photography: Mike Hnida
Models: Dragged Out - Left to right: Xavier as Hulk; Taiyo as Black Widow; Chico Caliente as Iron Man; Suave Rico Gotti as Nick Fury; Damien as Captain America; Ethan Prince as Thor; and Andre 1000 as Hawkeye.
Costumes: Models' own, kits from Halloween Express in Maplewood
Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

For snappy catch phrases and immediate camaraderie, you may want to consider dressing up as a superhero group. *The Avengers* have all had their time in the big screen limelight the last few summers, so they're a hot ticket for costume themes. The great part about doing something like this is that you just need it to exist and go as a team, and then everyone will get it. Costumes inspired by a large franchise are easily available, pre-packaged, bagged, and ready to grab off the shelf at Halloween Express in Maplewood. You just have to decide who gets to be who in the group. Specific wigs are also available to accompany the costumes that come in the bags. You may want to put some texture cream and hair spray into your wigs since they'll be a little stiff from being in the bag before purchase. Feel free to pull them back into a ponytail or however else you might feel it would read best. This is a great option for those who want a quick and easy but fun-filled costume idea. If you are going to play Thor or Iron Man, you'll want to do some stubble if you don't have any. If you are going to play Hulk, you'll want to get some body paint or consider hiring a media makeup artist to get you ready if you want a more professional design. If you are a female playing Hulk, you will also need to think about binding.

What to Get:

Costumes: You can wing it for Hawkeye's black sleeveless shirt and pants outfit, but the rest you can get straight off the shelves of Halloween Express in Maplewood: Thor's Avengers Costume, \$69.99, Thor's Hammer, \$6.99, and Thor's Wig, \$16.99; Captain America's Muscle Costume, \$56.99, and Captain America's Shield, \$34.99; Black Widow's Avengers Deluxe Costume, \$39.99, and Black Widow's Wig, \$14.99; Nick Fury's Pirate Eyepatch, \$1.49, and a Cyber Man Costume, \$29.99; Iron Man Deluxe Costume (with mask), \$69.99; M16 Gun, \$7.99; Secret Agent Gun, \$6.99.

Hulk Body Paint: See how to do your own body paint like Hulk in our online how-to or you can hire a professional makeup artist for body painting (\$50-\$150 depending on the area to be covered and detail desired). See also the online tutorial for how to add stubble to your face with crepe wool.

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

www.halloweenexpressmn.com



Inspired by
TRUE

Photography: Mike Hnida

Models: Black Hearts Burlesque and Twin Cities Leather - Left to right: Paul Bigot and Kyle Truss as werewolves; Karri Plowman as Alcide; Dahlia Dulce as Sookie; Mistress Victoria Deville as Lafayette; Lucy Furr as Bill; Dominique D'mure as Ginger; Skip St. Skip as Eric; Josephine Belle as Tara; Elektra Cute as Pam; Fiona Flameteaser as Jessica; Buck Wilde as Jason; and Luke Wallrich as Sam.

Location: Hell's Kitchen in Minneapolis

Makeup/Hair: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

True Blood is the world where it's sexy to be a vampire AND it's sexy to be a werewolf. You can wear anything that you can imagine beautiful fantasy creatures slinking off into the night in. This can be a costume idea for an individual or for a group.



BLOOD

As opposed to our genre friends, the zombies, vampires and werewolves are pristine and lovely on the eye. This is a great costume idea for anyone wanting to look more appealing than appalling. You may want a wig to up the fun factor or to portray a specific character on the show. Otherwise, you just decide whether or not you're the one doing the biting or if you've been bitten. Ve want to suck your blood!

What to Get:

Costumes: Models sourced their own clothing from their closets and thrift stores. For the werewolves and shifters, the leather pants, shirts, and harnesses are available at Twin Cities Leather for \$130 to \$250 with free tailoring with purchase; Pup Hood is \$275, also available from Twin Cities Leather.

Realistic and custom fit for you, Scarecrow Vampire Fang kits are available at Norcostco, \$15.00. Available from Halloween Express in Maplewood: Thor's Wig on Ginger, \$16.99; Sexy Super Model Wig on Pam, \$16.99; Rasta Wig on Tara, \$12.99.



Inspired by

TRUE BLOOD

All About Blood How-To

(continued from page 31)

Light Cuts: Use Ben Nye Thick Blood to create light wounds. Simply drag Thick Blood across the skin with a palette knife to create light cuts. The product dries enough to stay on for the night. Remember, no surface on the body is flat—it's a 3-D form—so that means no cut is straight, it should have a bit of a curve to it to look realistic.

Blood Splatters: Use an old toothbrush or stiff bristle brush to create soft blood splatters around wounds. Just dip into liquid blood, point it toward the area, then pull your thumb in toward you to make the blood flick out of the brush.

Dripped Blood: Take a lip brush (or on a budget/at home, use a popsicle stick or straw) and dip it into the liquid blood without scraping excess off. Then hold it against the area that you want to have blood drip out of. Do it repeatedly until you have the amount of desired blood.

Bloody Clothes and Dirt: You can stomp your costume into the dirt outside ahead of time, and then change into it. If you're going to go all out with liquid blood for your clothing, we suggest doing those finishing touches outdoors just before you leave, or once you arrive at your destination. Plan to use towels or a sheet to sit on in your car if you're traveling to your Halloween party AFTER you do blood and dirt. Be cognizant of bloody footprints if you plan to be indoors.



How To Install Your Own Vampire Fangs

Get some high quality fangs that you mold to your teeth for a customized fit and repeated use. We used Scarecrow Vampire Fang kits and everything you need is included in the box.

See photo steps below:

1. Mix up one capsule of powder and 4 drops of liquid into the container with one end of the stirring stick. Once it begins to set up like thick toothpaste, then scrape half of it into the open space on the false vampire fang.
2. You must curl your lip up out of place and suck a breath or two in so that the saliva dries off of your teeth. Carefully place the fang over your tooth and push into place. It's ok if any excess amounts of the dental molding material ooze out.
3. & 4. Be sure not to move the fang once it's in place or you will create space in the mold and it may not set correctly. Let it set for approximately 15 minutes. After it has set, you can push the fangs forward until you hear a click and then you can simply remove them. The fangs are now molded to your teeth and can be taken off and on with ease. There are two sizes of fangs - large and small. The small are easier to wear for a prolonged amount of time.



Halloween How-To Credits:



Brett Dorrian – Owner and Lead Artist Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios

Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios is an award-winning and published media makeup and photography studio in St. Paul, offering services for weddings, portraits, events, spray tanning, editorial, character/FX, theater, film, and classes.

Weddings | Portraits | Events | Private Lessons |
Editorial | Character/SFX | Theater | Film
1595 Selby Ave, Ste 111
St. Paul, MN 55104
www.brettdorrian.com



Inspired by

Snow White & Prince Charming

Photography: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian.

Models: Shannon Blowtorch as Prince Charming, Tea Simpson as Snow White. Shannon Blowtorch is an internationally known DJ, promoter, and sound engineer. Tea Simpson is the lead singer of the internationally known all-girl garage rock band, L'Assassins.

www.shannonblowtorch.com
www.facebook.com/LAssassins

Makeup/Hair by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian. Promotion: Book photography with the studio for your 2014 or 2015 wedding date by 11/15/13 and get a FREE engagement session (\$250 value).



Norcostco

Norcostco is a supplier of costumes, mascots, theatrical makeup, wigs, props, manufacturer of stage drops and draperies, rigging systems, fog machines and atmospheric effects, intercoms, paint and painting supplies, platforms, special effects, stage lighting, lamps, dimming systems, automated lighting, and stage hardware. In a day where good service seems like a rare find, Norcostco prides itself in providing customers with highest quality customer service. Norcostco been serving customers since 1884 and its reputation has been based on quality products, fast response, and customer care.

825 Rhode Island Ave S
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55426
763-544-0601
www.norcostco.com
www.facebook.com/Norcostco



Inspired by

The Walking Dead

Photography: Ryan Coit Photography. Ryan Coit is a Minneapolis-based photographer who tends "to mostly work with black and white portrait photography, always working to put a personal and emotional twist on each photograph."

ryancoit.sites.livebooks.com
coit.photography@gmail.com

Models: WerQ Events - Bill Rolon as Rick; DJ Multidimensional Fortitude (DJ MF) as Governor; Bart Ruff as Andrea; Paul Whittemore as Daryl; Dyani Lee as Michonne; Travis Winship, Eli McKinney, and Omar Pineda as zombies. WerQ Events, led by promoter Bill Rolon, creates unique nightlife experiences combining non-stop energy, state-of-the-art lighting, and visuals set to the high intensity music by resident DJ Multidimensional Fortitude.
www.werqevents.com

Makeup/Hair/Special Effects by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian, Sarah Fisher, Sabrina Rogers, and Meghan Wick. Promotion: Artists available by appointment at our St. Paul studio for Halloween makeup and SFX on Halloween as well as the weekend prior for your Halloween parties.

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS

Halloween Express in Maplewood

Halloween Express in Maplewood is the year-round, one-stop costume shop that gets new product in daily. The inventory is impressive: 800 wigs in stock; over 600 different hats; over 100 different pairs of eyeglasses; over 150 Masquerade/Venetian style masks; over 500 different styles of hosiery (includes adults, plus size adults, and children); over 100 styles of shoes and boots in stock (and they carry special sizing in some styles up to size 14); over a thousand different adult costumes (including hundreds of plus size costumes); over 500 different costumes for kids; over 400 overhead masks; and thousands of costume accessories as well as props, decorations, and costumes for pets.

2839 White Bear Ave N
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-705-7450
www.halloweenexpressmn.com
www.facebook.com/HalloweenExpressMN



Inspired by

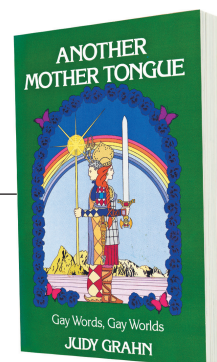
Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson

Photography: Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian.

Models: David Hanbury as Sherlock Holmes and Andrew Rasmussen as Dr. Watson. David Hanbury has most recently graced the stages of the Twin Cities as Mrs. Smith, an eccentric woman who is in search of her cat, Carlyle. Andrew Rasmussen is Executive Producer at Cardinal Theatricals, the company producing Mrs. Smith as well as other recent hits like Rocky Horror Picture Show and RENT. Watch for David and Andrew to take Mrs. Smith to the musical stage and television!

www.facebook.com/pages/MRS-SMITH/292666833041
www.cardinaltheatricals.com

Makeup/Hair by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian. Promotion: Camera-ready makeup and head shot sessions available for performers and executives. Let us take care of you so you can take care of business. Mini sessions available for online profiles.



Halloween is the “Great Gay Holiday”

When you celebrate Halloween this year at one of the local GLBT bars or other venues, you’ll be continuing a community tradition that dates from time immemorial.

Long before the advent of such events as Pride, National Coming Out Day, and Gay History Month (the latter two in October), Halloween was—and still is—the gay holiday par excellence.

Active in the gay movement for a half-century now, lesbian writer Judy Grahn published her classic *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds* in 1984. It’s a treasure trove of information about gay culture from ancient to modern times. Incidentally, her discussion of the importance of the color lavender in relation to GLBT folks throughout history inspired me to name this magazine *Lavender* when it debuted in 1995.

As Grahn notes, “Halloween is the most significant Gay holiday. Elaborate drag balls often accompanied by costume parades and attendance by stars and political figures, large parties, processions, limousines, and mass public turnouts in Gay ghetto areas on Halloween mark it as the Night of Nights for the Gay community.”

Going back to our countercultural pagan ancestors in the distant mists of time, Grahn points out that Halloween, originally called Sam-

hain, was the most important of the Celtic holidays, marking the beginning of the New Year.

Moving centuries ahead, Grahn shares her observations about Halloween 1980 in San Francisco: a hunky gay man costumed as a silver butterfly, leather queens, barefoot swishy men dressed in long johns, male couples outfitted as “man and wife,” dykes, and, in her words, “queens, queens, queens.” The look isn’t much different more than three decades later.

Indeed, as the San Francisco gay community burgeoned after World War II, Halloween grew to be a major community event, with the revelry moving to the Castro by the late 1970s. Many referred to it as the “gay high holy day.”

Concomitantly, the much-smaller Twin Cities gay population observed Halloween annually with a popular drag ball at a large hotel, the one day of the year when they truly could be themselves. Today, that tradition lives on with the many festivities at local GLBT bars.

This October, don’t miss the opportunity to continue the celebration that GLBT folks have been carrying on for centuries. As Grahn puts it, Halloween is the “Great Gay Holiday.” □

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Halloween How-To Credits:



Inspired by
Mad Men

Photography: Wijadi Jodi is a photographer for the North Star Roller Girls. He also photographs burlesque shows in the Minneapolis - Saint Paul area.

Models: Tawnya "Sweetpea" Konobeck, Jax, and Vivienne Le Détruire. Tawnya "Sweetpea" Konobeck is a nationally renowned burlesque entertainer and event producer. Singer/songwriter Jax and dancer Vivienne Le Détruire are talented up-and-comers to watch out for, and can be seen at "EXPOSE" -a Sweetpea Soirée.
www.thesweetpea.com

Costumes: Bettie Page Clothing (Mall of America)
www.bettiepageclothing.com

Makeup/Hair by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian, Sabrina Rogers, and Meghan Wick. Promotion: Gift Certificates for Personal and Group Makeup Lessons/Makeover Sessions will be on sale and gift wrapped for the holidays. Email brett@brettdorrian.com to be added to our online mailing list for an exclusive announcement for our annual Black Friday gift certificate sale.



Real Housewives of Hennepin County
Photography: Mike Hnida for Lavender Magazine.

Models: TCGSL Members: Tim Mulhair, Reggie Acker, Tony Wolff, Tyler Hayden, and Kele Bedell. The Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL) is one of the largest leagues in NAGAA- North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Open Division celebrating 35 years of softball for the Minnesota GLBTA Community.
www.tcgsl.org

Costumes: Halloween Express in Maplewood
www.halloweenexpress.com
www.facebook.com/HalloweenExpressMN

Makeup/Wigs by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian and Meghan Wick. Promotion: Custom Organic Airbrush Spray Tanning in our studio or in your home. Package of 5 sessions for \$250 (use yourself or share with friends for a tanning party).



Inspired by
The Avengers

Photography: Mike Hnida for Lavender Magazine.

Models: Dragged Out - Xavier as Hulk; Damien as Captain America; Ethan Prince as Thor; Chico Caliente as Iron Man; Suave Rico Gotti as Nick Fury; Andre 1000 as Hawkeye; Taiyo as Black Widow. Dragged Out is the only king show in the Twin Cities, along with special guests. You can see their show every 3rd Friday of the month at the Town House Bar.
www.facebook.com/Dragged.Out.MN

Makeup/Hair/Wigs/Body Painting by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian, Sabrina Rogers, and Kristine Loehrer. Promotion: Custom body painting, character design, wig styling, and lessons available for performers.



Inspired by
True Blood

Photography: Mike Hnida for Lavender Magazine.

Models: Black Hearts Burlesque and Twin Cities Leather - Left to right: Paul Bigot and Kyle Truss as werewolves; Karri Plowman as Alcide; Dahlia Dulce as Sookie; Mistress Victoria Deville as Lafayette; Lucy Furr as Bill; Dominique D'mure as Ginger; Skip St. Skip as Eric; Josephine Belle as Tara; Elektra Cute as Pam; Fiona Flameteaser as Jessica; Buck Wilde as Jason; and Luke Wallrich as Sam.

Black Hearts Burlesque presents We're All Going To Hell: A Black Hearts' Halloween and you can find out more about the Black Hearts on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/blackheartsburlesque>

Twin Cities Leather is a community cafe and leather/kink retailer based in Minneapolis. TCL takes pride in being a business run by kinky people-for kinky people. Find out more at www.twincitiesleather.com.

Makeup/Hair/Wigs/Special Effects by Brett Dorrian Artistry Studios - Brett Dorrian, Sarah Fisher, Meghan Wick, and Kristine Loehrer. Promotion: In studio or on-site makeup and hairstyling available for parties and black tie events.

Calendar of Halloween Events

by Shane Lueck
Events in **red** are GLBT-oriented.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Nonna Rosa's has partnered with Top Hat Theatre once again for an evening of thrills. Admission includes a four course dinner as well as admission to a show, up close and personal. The Columbo family go head to head in competition for the best pasta dish until...MURDER! Who did it? How? Where? Why? Grab your friends and family to help unravel the mystery.

October 17, 24 at 7:00 p.m., October 18-19, 25-26 at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$40.00

Venue: Nonna Rosa's

4168 West Broadway Avenue

Robbinsdale, MN

www.nonnarosawinebar.com

Shadows and Spirits of the Capitol

These tours allow visitors to see the Capitol in a setting with lighting similar to what existed when the building opened in 1905. As tour groups move through, they will meet historical "spirits" who tell stories of the Capitol's early history.

October 17-19, 24-26; 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$12.00

Venue: Minnesota State Capitol

St. Paul, MN

www.mnhs.org

Frightmares at Buck Hill

For countless generations, Buck Hill has remained a brooding malevolence. Those who have tried to build on its land have died or gone mad. Come and visit, if you dare. Attractions include Under Bellarm Asylum, Orchard Manor Dead and Breakfast, The Fright Factory, and The Haunted Hollow.

October 17-20, 24-27; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$20.00

Venue: 15400 Buck Hill Road

Burnsville, MN

www.frightmares.com

Trail of Terror

Offering numerous attractions, including a ¾ mile haunted maze and a lockdown in which participants are blindfolded, bound to a table, and then exposed to smells, sounds and touch that will frighten even the most skeptic.

October 17-20, 24-27; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$19.95

Venue: The Trail Grounds

3525 145th Street West

Shakopee, MN

www.trailofterrorfest.com

ValleyScare

Each weekend night through Halloween, Valleyfair morphs into a horror-filled nightmare. Not appropriate for patrons below 13 years of age, ValleyScare offers mazes with terrifying creatures around every corner and rides that'll haunt your dreams. Not a ride person? Then check out scare zones and shows meant to make you shriek.

Weekend nights until October 27; 7:00 p.m. to midnight (Saturdays, haunting starts at 6:00 p.m.)

Tickets: start at \$30.99

Venue: Valleyfair, Shakopee

www.valleyfair.com/haunt

Nightmare Hallow Scream Park at Running Aces

Celebrating 22 years of scares, Nightmare Hallow Scream Park is the original haunted house, haunted hayrides and haunted events experience in the north suburbs. The Doom Wagon will take you through haunted trails and you'll experience a ride that you won't forget.

October 17-20, 23-November 2; 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 (weekdays) or 11:00 (weekends)

Tickets: \$15.00-\$18.00

Venue: 15201 Zurich Street NE

Forest Lake / Columbus, MN

www.nightmarehallowsscreampark.com

Scream Town

Featuring two new attractions, this haunted town is set in a secluded atmosphere surrounded by a forest and corn field. With the largest corn maze in Minnesota, there are no wagons and no tour guides: just you navigating huge haunted attractions. Join the Minneapolis Movie Bears as they take on Scream Town Oct. 17.

October 17-20, 25-27, November 1-2; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets: Start at \$20.00

Venue: 7410 Highway 212

Chaska, MN

www.screamtown.com

The Haunting Experience on Highway 61

Haunting awaits, but there is fun for the entire family. In addition to the three haunted events, the family can enjoy carnival games, bonfires, a dance floor and beer tent on the weekends. For those who need a bit more adventure, take part in the Zombie Hunter Paintball Adventure at an additional cost. Attendees should note that the cost is lower this year.

October 17-19, 23-26, 31-November 2; dusk to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$17.00, \$15.00 on weeknights

Venue: 10900 E Pt. Douglas Rd

Cottage Grove, MN

www.hauntingexperience.com

The Soap Factory Haunted Basement

Now in its seventh year, the artist-designed Haunted Basement is lurking underneath The Soap Factory, waiting to be explored. If needing to sign a waiver to enter doesn't turn you away, the Factory challenges the hard-to-scare patrons to venture through alone.

October 17-20, 23-27, 30-November 3; 6:00 p.m. to midnight

Tickets: \$25.00-\$27.00

Venue: The Soap Factory

514 Second St SE

Minneapolis MN

www.soapfactory.org

Dragged Out

Come out and celebrate Halloween with the cast of Dragged Out featuring special guests Victoria DeVille and Anita Rivera. Dragged Out will also have a couple kings that will be battling it out on stage! The winner will get a spot at an upcoming Dragged Out show! As RuPaul would say, "It's time to lip-sync for your lives!" The performer to get the most applause from the audience will be the winner!

October 18; 9:30 p.m.

Venue: The Town House Bar

1415 University Avenue West

St. Paul, MN

www.townhousebar.com

Real Haunted Tours

For one hour you and up to 15 other people will have two experienced paranormal investigators walk you through the theatre in near darkness. The tour includes several pauses for evidence gathering and invitations for activity, so don't forget to bring your camera, voice recorder or video camera and attempt to catch your own evidence!

October 18-20, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$20.00

Venue: Mounds Theatre

1029 Hudson Road

St. Paul, MN

www.realhauntedtours.com

Blackout at Nickelodeon Universe

Experience Nickelodeon Universe like never before with unlit rides, black lights, fog effects, and a live DJ. Fun for all ages include costume contests, black light t-shirt making, glow-in-the-dark airbrush tattoos and more. The first 1,000 ride ticket purchases made after 5:00 each night will receive a free treat bag.

October 18-19, 25-26; 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: 20.99 + tax for unlimited ride wristbands

Venue: Nickelodeon Universe, Mall of America

www.nickelodeonuniverse.com/blackout-2013

Dreadwood Haunted Forest

"No hayrides. No escape. No mercy." An isolated forest outside of Hudson, WI, Dreadwood is not a park surrounded by neighborhoods or filled with cabins. When night falls, the darkness is consuming. You MUST stay with your guide. There are no side-doors or escape routes — once you have entered Dreadwood, the only way out is through.

October 18-19, 25-26; 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12.00

Venue: 835 County Road E

Hudson, WI

www.dreadwoodhaunt.com

Wabasha Street Caves: Ghost & Graves Tour

Take a ride around St. Paul to hear the tales of spirits, murders, ghost sightings and a graveyard. Reservations are required, so be sure to sign up early. Upgrade to the Caves and Graves tour for

Continued on page 48 ➔

Calendar of Halloween Events

a chance to visit the dark and empty caves. Visit online for the most up-to-date information on dates and times.

Tickets: \$18.00
www.wabashstreetcaves.com

Ramsey County Sheriff's Fright Farm

Do you believe in ghosts? Perhaps seeing is believing. When something touches you in the night at the Fright Farm, it could be a performer... or it could be something else. Legend says that when the indigent were sent to live out their last days at the Poor Farm, some committed suicide while others naturally perished. Either way, their spirits are here to stay.

October 18-19, 25-27, 30-31; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10.00
Venue: Ramsey County Fair Grounds
2020 White Bear Avenue
Maplewood, MN
www.frightfarm.org/

Monster Bingo

Bingo A-GoGo events are held twice a year to benefit Twin Cities Gay Mens Chorus and Park House, serving the HIV/AIDS community. This night's theme of Monster Bingo encourages players to dress in costume and play to win! Hosted by Miss Richfield 1981, the games offer cash prizes as well as some raffle prizes - past events have given away theater tickets, botox, and dinners. Don't forget about the great food to enjoy while you're making the cards!

October 19, 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$35.00 in advance, \$45.00 at the door
Venue: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
1300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
www.bingoagogo.com

VOGUE|TRASH: Costume Fashion Ball

Where else can you experience local avant-garde fashion with a touch of performance art, except for Patrick's Cabaret 4th annual VOGUE|TRASH: Costume Fashion Ball? Artists will walk the runway, wearing their own wacky, innovative creations while attendees are encouraged to wear something crazy and flaunt for the cameras. In addition, the benefit will feature a silent auction along with a live DJ. Proceeds benefit the Cabaret's 2014 season.

Saturday, October 19th, 7:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$40 VIP, \$15 General Admission
Venue: Patrick's Cabaret
3010 Minnehaha Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
www.patrickscabaret.org

Expose - A Sweetpea Soiree

"Unveil. Disclose. Uncover. Reveal." Celebrate by enjoying another magical evening of multi-genre, all-star artistry. Join a cast of spectacular artists brought together to present a broad-spectrum experience. Performances of burlesque, drag, comedy, spoken-word, live music, and more will divulge personal outlooks on what it is to "unmask" or to be made visible.

October 19; 9:00 p.m. doors, 10:00 p.m. show
Tickets: \$15.00 at www.tinyurl.com/sweetpeasoiree
810 West Lake Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota
www.thesweetpea.com

ZooBoo at Como Zoo

Celebrate Halloween without the fright factor. ZooBoo is a non-scary Halloween fundraising festival for families and young children, with proceeds supporting the plants and animals of the zoo.

October 19, 20, 25-27; 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$6.00
Venue: Como Park Zoo & Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Dr
St. Paul, MN
www.comozooconservatory.org

Halloween Freak Nights

The Gay 90's are hosting multiple nights of 18+ Halloween splendor. Join them for a special LaFemme's Halloween drag show and costume contests one weekend and head back the next weekend for the Miss Gay 90's contest.

October 25-26, 31; Shows start at 10:00 p.m.
Venue: Gay 90's
408 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
www.gay90s.com

We're All Going to Hell: A Black Hearts' Halloween Get in the mood for Halloween with an especially dark show put on by Black Hearts Burlesque. Hosted by Mistress Victoria DeVille, the event features numerous special guests, so throw on your costume a week early and join the ladies of burlesque for a night of fun.

October 25; 9:30 p.m. doors, 10:30 p.m. show
Tickets: \$10
Venue: Hell's Kitchen
80 South 9th Street
Minneapolis, MN
www.hellskitcheninc.com

The Big Gay Halloween Party VII: The Future Epic Minneapolis has partnered with The Boys Present and Pinnacle Vodka to bring the seventh annual Big Gay Halloween Party. This year's theme? The Future. Featuring DJ Multidimensional Fortitude and new technology, the costume contest will be giving away \$1000 in prizes while "transporting your mind and soul into the future."

Friday, October 25, Doors at 10 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door
Venue: Epic Minneapolis
110 North 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN
www.bghp.bpt.me

Halloween at Lush

Friday, come for a costume contest with cash and bar tab prizes and music by DJ Shannon Blowtorch, "spinning the purr-fect party mix." Come back Saturday for DJ Kris Holiday "slaying down the beat" for another great costume contest.

October 25-26
Venue: Lush Food Bar
990 Central Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
www.lushfoodbar.com

Halloween Weekend at eagleBOLTbar

The eagleboltbar is hosting a Halloween Weekend full of contests, starting with a uniform contest at midnight on Friday. Saturday hosts a Halloween costume contest at midnight and the weekend concludes with a showtunes costume contest at 9:00 p.m. Sunday. After resting up, head back on Halloween night for Redneck Halloween with Trashcan Thursday specials.

October 25-27, 31
Venue: eagleBOLTbar
515 Washington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN
www.eagleboltbar.com

Monster Dash

Whether you're more the half marathon, 10 mile, or 5k type of runner, the Monster Dash has a St. Paul course for you. If you think you can handle it, run in a costume for a chance to win the costume contest.

October 26; 8:30 a.m.
Registration: Starts at \$49.99
www.minnesotamonster.org

5th Annual Halloween Fearless 5K

"Chase Away Fears" as you run or walk around Como Lake on a USATF certified course with family and friends. The course is professionally chip-timed and includes motivational theme music, announcer, free photographic record and healthy post-race treats.

October 26, Check-in starts at 8:45 a.m.
Registration starts at \$28
1360 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN
www.charitieschallenge.org

Woof 'n' Treat Halloween Party

The Shops at Excelsior & Grand will host the sixth annual Woof 'n Treat Halloween Party for pooches and people of all ages. This free event, founded by the owners of Bubbly Paws and Pampered Pooch Playground, will feature a dog costume contest and will benefit Homeward Bound Dog Rescue through a silent auction and donations from participating merchants who will donate a portion of the day's sales to the organization. There will also be dog adoptions, refreshments, hay rides, inflatables, trick-or-treating for kids and dogs, and much more.

October 26; 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Venue: The Shops at Excelsior & Grand
St. Louis Park, MN
www.woofntreat.com

Anoka Grand Day Halloween Parade

Anoka is believed to be the first city in the United States to put on a Halloween celebration meant to divert its youngsters from partaking in more





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Calendar of Halloween Events

tricks than treats. This year's theme is Retro and, although dressing up and Halloween attire is encouraged, gore and blood are not allowed.

October 26; 1:00 p.m.
Venue: Main Street
Anoka, MN
www.anokahalloween.com

Family Equality Council Family Halloween Party
Join in the fun for the annual Halloween Family Day Party, a family-friendly way to enjoy the season while connecting with old and new friends from the area! Don't miss games, arts and crafts, and fun-filled activities for the whole family. Dress in your best costume if you want to participate in the costume contest.

October 26; 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Venue: Burroughs Community School
1601 West 50th Street
Minneapolis, MN
www.familyequality.org

Mystic Lake Big Halloween Bash
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel will host the Big Halloween Bash, its first-ever Halloween party. The event is set to include live entertainment, drink specials and a costume contest. Everyone is invited to participate in a casino-wide costume crawl, visiting all casino bars from 9 to 11 p.m.

October 26; 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Venue: Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard Northwest
Prior Lake, MN
www.mysticlake.com/halloween2013

All Hallow's Eve Masquerade Ball Drag Show Fundraiser
The Rochester Girls will once again perform an "Exquisite Drag Review" in full makeup, jewelry and masquerade attire. Follow the Rochester Girls after the show to an audience happy hour at the Old Village Hall Restaurant and Pub. All proceeds from the event benefit the Rochester AIDS Walk.

October 26; Doors at 6:00 p.m., Show at 6:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 in advance, available at Lanesboro's Crown Trout Jewelers and The Old Village Hall Restaurant and Pub
Venue: Lanesboro Community Center
202 Parkway Avenue South
Lanesboro, MN

Minneapolis Haunt
Come to every bar on this crawl for free cover, drink specials, getting spooked at the haunted house and, of course, trick or treating! This pub crawl includes downtown's top bars (508, Aqua, Brothers, Gay 90's, Cowboy Jack's, Light, Pourhouse, The Rouge At Lounge, The Tangiers, and an after party at Whisky Park) as well as Minneapolis' very first haunted house. Grab your costume and come party with the best of them.

October 26; 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Tickets: \$7.00 in advance, \$25.00 day of
www.minneapolishaunt.com

BERLIN: Halloween Edition
"Calling all queer grrrls, boyzzz, & everything in between! The Twin Cities QUEER INDIE revolution is here and doing Halloween even bigger than last year!" DJ Shannon Blowtorch will be play the spooky jams all night, with special guest DJ Lori Barbero. The night includes a costume contest, dance party, and drag performances.

October 26; 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Tickets: \$6
Venue: Hell's Kitchen
80 South 9th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota
www.hellskitcheninc.com

The Saloon's Halloween
WerQ Events partners with the Saloon for Halloween with DJ Barden opening for resident DJ Multidimensional Fortitude. Whether Halloween is an excuse to be sexy or scary, The Saloon invites you to strut your stuff. Two separate nights celebrating the two separate categories; enjoy cash prizes in the costume contests.

Sexy Halloween October 26, Scary Halloween October 31; contests at midnight
Venue: The Saloon
830 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
www.saloonmn.com

Metro Dogs Customer Appreciation Halloween Specials
The company that offers daycare and boarding for your furry friends is turning two this Halloween! To celebrate, they're offering specials all week long. From free daycare and nail trims to discounts on retail purchases, Metro Dogs is offering up numerous sweet treats.

October 28-November 1
Venue: Metro Dogs Daycare & Boarding
506 11th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN
www.metrodogsmn.com

Halloween at CocoBear
Join us for a fun spooky event! Dress your pet up to automatically be entered into the pet costume contest! Food and drinks will be served! We will be doing free feather extensions (or a free bandana) to each dog in costume!

October 30; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Venue: CocoBear Pet Care and Boutique
197 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN
www.cocobearpetcare.com

Cocktails at the Castle: Loki's Halloween Bash
The American Swedish Institute's popular Cocktails at the Castle series returns this Halloween with a legendary theme. Come Halloween night, ASI transforms into the Nine Worlds of Norse Mythology with special guests Loki, Thor, Odin and the fallen Vikings, among others. Live music by local bands Crimes and Strange Names. Costumes are encouraged for this 21+ event.

Thursday, October 31, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15
Venue: American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
www.ASImn.org

19 Bar Costume Contest
With a first place prize of \$500 cash and never a cover charge, 19 Bar wants to see you in costume. Judging starts at 11:00, with winners announced at midnight.

October 31
Venue: 19 Bar
19 West 15th Street
Minneapolis, MN
www.19bar.itgo.com

Scary Ink 2
Local Twin Cities poster artists will be displaying Halloween-themed posters for Scary Ink 2. In the very first Scary Ink show, artists depicted glow-in-the-dark ghosts, grisly monsters, ghouls, and all sorts of tricks or treats. Though the posters will be displayed for a couple of weeks, an opening reception will be held Halloween night. Posters from the exhibition will be for sale during the opening and during the entire run of the show at Big Table Studio.

October 31-November 16
Venue: Big Table Studio
375 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota
www.bigtablestudio.com

Suck It!: Day of the Dead
Town House will be hosting a Halloween bash the night of November 1 with the Suck It show. Billed as "a new drag revue with just the right amount of attitude," Suck It embraces the Halloween theme with Day of the Dead. Nothing screams "Halloween" quite like half-dead drag queens. With a \$200 first place prize in the costume contest, it's sure to be fun for everyone.

November 1; 10:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$4.00
Venue: The Town House Bar
1415 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN
www.townhousebar.com

Red Carpet To Hell V, sponsored by DEVILS CUT
Come one, come all for the two level party at the W Hotel. The first and second floor will play host a party with music from DJ Paris and a costume contest with local celebrity judges (Dave and Falon from KDWB and Meatsauce from KFAN). Costume categories include celebrity look-alike, sexiest male and female, scariest, most politically incorrect, most creative, group, and best overall.

November 2; 9:00 p.m.
Entry: \$10.00
Venue: The Living Room at W Minneapolis-The Foshay
821 Marquette Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN
www.whothe.com/minneapolis 

BAR SHOWCASE | photos by George Holdgrafer

19 BAR OCTOBER 2



CAMP BAR OCTOBER 2



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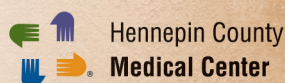
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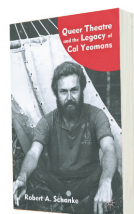


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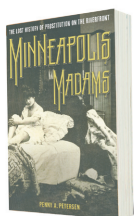
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QUEER THEATRE AND THE LEGACY OF CAL YEOMANS

Robert A. Schanke
Palgrave MacMillan
\$28

Author Schanke was steered by friends to a trove of playwright Yeomans's scripts, diaries, and photos unopened in a back room of the University of Florida's Smathers Library. From this material, together with scores of interviews with Yeomans's friends and fellow writers, Schanke crafted not only a biography of this little-known playwright, but an overview of gay theater in that brief slice of time between the Stonewall riots and the arrival of the AIDS epidemic. Born in Ocala, Florida, in 1938, Yeomans endured growing up gay in the deep South, and his later theatrical career foundered as AIDS emerged. Context is everything, and the unfettered sexuality of Yeomans's principal works, *Richmond Jim* and *Sunsets: A Beach Trilogy*, was less than welcome as thousands of gay men were dying. Yeomans held to his principles, however, arguing that sex was "one of the great mysteries & motivators of life filled with humor & splendor and pathos." Schanke follows Yeomans from his conservative fundamentalist hometown to his first introduction to theater at Florida State University, to Atlanta, where he acted and taught at the Atlanta School of Acting and Workshop Theatre, to New York City and Ellen Stewart's famed La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club. Stewart refused to handle Yeomans's explicitly sexual pieces, however, and from New York, Yeomans moved to San Francisco, where *Richmond Jim* premiered at the Rhinoceros Theatre. Schanke weaves the threads of this complex and conflicted life to give a fascinating portrait of Yeomans in the context of his times.



MINNEAPOLIS MADAMS: THE LOST HISTORY OF PROSTITUTION ON THE RIVERFRONT

Penny A. Petersen
University of Minnesota Press
\$24.95

Prostitution may indeed be the world's oldest profession, but politics runs a close second. Penny Petersen traces the history of prostitution in Minneapolis from its origins in the newly-formed, freewheeling lumber and mill town, to its growth into a social and financial power, to its demise in the early twentieth century. Petersen rigorously explores the motivations of power and cash involved in the trade between savvy, resourceful women of independent means and those who opposed them while welcoming their revenue. Dispersing them, the powers of purity found was not simple—without defined streets and parlors, all woman became targets of solicitation. There are maps and charts, names and stories that illuminate and humanize a Minneapolis industry that grew, prospered, then declined between 1880 and 1910.



LOVE RULES
Mark Abramson
Lethe Press
\$15

Love Rules brings back Abramson's Beach Reading crew; clairvoyant Tim Snow, his lover Nick, Arturo and Artie (a.k.a. Artie Glamour) of Arts Restaurant, his beloved Aunt Ruth and others, for a seventh turn around the Castro. But can the center hold? Nick is abroad for several weeks; Aunt Ruth wants to spend time with her new husband; Artie is busy expanding his show-biz career. Throughout, Tim suffers in the throes of a pre-midlife crisis, anguishing over sexual temptations in Nick's absence. Nick evinces a looser, "Play safe. Use condoms," attitude, having fewer qualms about the carpe diem perks of Paris. Add a couple of masked robbers, a sexy policeman, a Brit Internet hookup, and even Tim's clairvoyance offers him no concrete answers. Let love rule?



Kink U Debuts, and Twin Cities Leather Adds Latte

The leather/BDSM/fetish community strongly believes in education. In that spirit, a daylong educational event called Kink U Minneapolis was presented on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Minneapolis Eagle/Bolt Underground.

The day was divided into five segments. The first, a demonstration and workshop on bodily-impact play, was presented by Jazz Thomas, assisted by Kyle Truss, Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2013. That workshop was followed by a panel discussion of Master/slave and Dominant/submissive relationships. In addition to Thomas and Truss, panel members were Randy Ingram; Bud Lile; Jayson Glynn, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2011; and Slavepup Axel, International Puppy 2013, visiting from Washington, D.C. The discussion was moderated by Ryan Brown, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013. During this segment lunch was provided by Twin Cities Leather.

The remaining three demonstration/workshops of the day were rope and bondage, presented by Creg; electrical play, presented by Sir M; and flogging, presented by Randy Ingram and Bud Lile.

At the conclusion of the day's demonstrations and workshops, the crowd moved to an evening barbecue hosted by Twin Cities Leather and held at the company's new retail space (see below). Then it was back to the Minneapolis Eagle for a special Gear Night which incorporated the launch of the North Star Kennel Club, a new Twin Cities club for (human) pups and their handlers.

Kink U Minneapolis was produced locally by Ryan Brown and Jason Zahlen and regionally by Titans of the Midwest (www.titansofthemidwest.org), a regional organization focused on kink education. (Other Kink U

seminars have been presented in Cincinnati, Des Moines and Kansas City.) Event sponsors included the Minneapolis Eagle/Bolt Bar, Twin Cities Leather, and the Atons of Minneapolis and the Knights of Leather who provided presenters.

More Kink U workshops are being planned as part of the upcoming Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2014 contest weekend. That contest takes place Saturday evening, November 16, when Ryan Brown will sash his successor. One of this year's judges will be a special guest: Andy Cross, the current International Mr. Leather. If you want to compete, email 2012mme@gmail.com for an application.

Local fetish-gear merchant Twin Cities Leather, formerly located in the Loring Park area, has moved to a new location at 2717 Hennepin Ave. S., just north of Uptown in Minneapolis. With the new location comes a new name: Twin Cities Leather & Latte. Yes, the leather shop will be combined with a coffeehouse and community meeting space—a place to meet, eat, caffeinate and shop for gear and accessories. As far as the owners know, there is nothing like this anywhere else.

In the spirit of Twin Cities Leather's mission and motto of "Community First," the owners have created a space that will be welcoming to everyone in the neighborhood and beyond. The interior features blue and gray walls with white woodwork and red accents, and light streams through the many windows. In nice weather, a front terrace and a back deck and yard provide plenty of outdoor seating. A wheelchair ramp makes the space accessible and welcoming to everyone.

Twin Cities Leather has always sought



The Kink U Master/slave panel members. Front: Jayson Glynn. Second row: Slavepup Axel and Kyle Truss. Third row: Bud Lile, Ryan Brown, Randy Ingram and Jazz Thomas. Photo by Steve Lenius.

to provide the highest quality in both merchandise and service, and they are applying the same philosophy to the beverages they serve. Coffee will be supplied by locally-based Roastery 7 Artisan Coffee, and one of the offerings will be "a unique Leather & Latte coffee/espresso blend."

Twin Cities Leather & Latte wants to be a gathering place, a supplier of community needs (apparel and other goods), a good neighbor in their urban neighborhood, and a visible and proud manifestation of the Twin Cities kink community. That community appears ready to support this kind of business, as evidenced by the fact that a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter.com raised 40% more than its goal.

Find out more at Facebook.com (search for "Twin Cities Leather & Latte") or call them at (612) 756-9TCL (756-9825)—one number for either the store or the coffeehouse. By the time you read this they should be open for business, so stop by and check them out. And watch for their Grand Opening festivities. ▣



Six Questions with Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate STEPHANIE WOODRUFF

This series of questions and answers with some of the Minneapolis mayoral candidates is to give the GLBT community a glimpse of five of the candidates this year. Lavender selected five diverse candidates from the field of almost three dozen to give readers a taste of their ideas and philosophies. Six questions have been formulated to give these candidates a place to express their leadership styles and approaches to governance. These questions are on general topics because the GLBT community is as interested in safe communities, accountable government, and budget priorities as the rest of the greater Minneapolis community. Since Minneapolis is the largest city in the state and its downtown has many amenities used by the rest of the state, this mayor's race affects people living outside its borders. Hopefully, this series will interest and inform your choice for mayor and stimulate discussions.

1. Mayor Rybak really pushed for making Minneapolis a more liveable city advocating for more public art, mass transit and community programs. How would your approach as mayor differ and what would be the theme for your term?

I commend Mayor Rybak's many years of public service. Moving forward, we face big challenges. I believe that by working together to create sustainable growth we can make big progress. As your Mayor, I will get the results we need to make Minneapolis a better place for all residents today, while preparing our city for the future.

When I think about "livability", I think of the quality of life. Harvey Milk said it best, "we have to understand that the quality of life, is more important than the standard of living." Harvey was right. My approach will be completely different, in that I'll be the Mayor who puts people over politics, and I'll invest in our human capital, so we can improve our quality of life in Minneapolis.

Ensuring that all of our children have a path to prosperity through education, cre-

ating long-term economic development through our investment in transit, and establishing greater community input in city decision-making are top priorities.

As a long-time resident of Minneapolis with 27-years of audit and corporate and small business experience and a proud public servant as the Mayor's appointed member of our Audit Committee, I believe I have the perfect balance of experience to be your next Mayor of Minneapolis.

2. Safe neighborhoods are important to all citizens but the GLBT community is especially sensitive on this issue. How would you work with police, community groups, and the city council towards making the city safer?

This topic is very near and dear to my heart and public safety for all our citizens is of the utmost importance. This is a multi-dimensional issue that requires collaboration from all of those who have a stake in our city, not just the police, but our schools, business community, parents, neighbors, and community at-large. With all of us working together to provide a comprehensive, long-term solution that includes prioritized law enforcement, alongside sustainable economic development and quality public education, we can keep our city safe.

3. Block E hasn't been a great success. What would you support doing with the site to make Hennepin Avenue a better venue?

As your Mayor, I would promote sustainable growth development along Hennepin Avenue, the entire downtown area, and city-wide. This includes more public green space, improving downtown walkability, and working with local businesses who have vested interest in downtown development. I would put Hennepin Avenue as a priority over any money spent on Nicollet Mall.

4. Mayor Rybak was an advocate for public spending on the Vikings' stadium. If the Timberwolves, for example, began demanding a new arena, how



Stephanie Woodruff. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Woodruff for Minneapolis Mayor

would you deal with that situation?

I'm all for public "investing", not spending. You can't socialize the downside, and privatize the upside, so any requested projects have to be negotiated for a "win-win" for both.

5. The GLBT community members are taxpayers and as such we care about accountability for the city's budget. How would you make sure we aren't wasting money on duplicate programs or unproductive initiatives?

With 27 years of executive-level audit experience and now serving on the city's Audit Committee, I am well-prepared to manage the city's balance sheet. I have built a career ensuring efficiency in spending and have seen first-hand how city hall operates. The US Public Interest Research Group recently gave Minneapolis a D- grade and placed it among the least transparent major cities in the country when it comes to sharing spending data. As your Mayor, I would create a more open Minneapolis.

6. What direction do you think Minneapolis should take concerning energy use and affordability for residents and businesses?

We need to continue to work with our energy providers so we get the best deal possible. I am totally against the idea of Minneapolis owning its own utility. We are in the people business, not the energy business. The energy companies invest billions of dollars each year, for many years, so we have access to the best. Now, there are efficient and cost effective things we can do, like developing solar gardens in neighborhoods where it makes best business sense. And, we should strive for a zero waste city by 2025, by first educating our children... gradually, I know we can get there. These low cost initiatives can make a huge impact on our overall footprint and move our green city, even greener. ■

Six Questions with Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate DON SAMUELS



Don Samuels. Photo courtesy of Don Samuels for Mayor

This series of questions and answers with some of the Minneapolis mayoral candidates is to give the GLBT community a glimpse of five of the candidates this year. Lavender selected five diverse candidates from the field of almost three dozen to give readers a taste of their ideas and philosophies. Six questions have been formulated to give these candidates a place to express their leadership styles and approaches to governance. These questions are on general topics because the GLBT community is as interested in safe communities, accountable government, and budget priorities as the rest of the greater Minneapolis community. Since Minneapolis is the largest city in the state and its downtown has many amenities used by the rest of the state, this mayor's race affects people living outside its borders. Hopefully, this series will interest and inform your choice for mayor and stimulate discussions.

1. Mayor Rybak really pushed for making Minneapolis a more "liveable" city advocating for more public art, mass transit and community programs. How would your approach as mayor differ and what would be the theme for your term?

Mayor Rybak will leave a strong legacy of economic development and raising the standard of living in Minneapolis, and as Mayor, I'll continue his strategy when it comes to those issues. But, to further ensure the economic growth and sustainability of our city, we must also take on different issues. We must take on and close our persistent achievement gap and we must continue to drive down crime. I will be unlike any mayor in Minneapolis history when it comes to involvement in Minneapolis Public Education, and I will be committed like no other when it comes to changing the perception and reality of crime in our city. That will be my legacy.

2. Safe neighborhoods are important to all citizens but the GLBT community is especially sensitive on this issue. How would you work with police, community groups, and the city council towards making the city safer?

Making sure our city is inclusive of all people is work that I have been doing for over two decades, and this includes our GLBT brothers and sisters. One of the first things we need to do to help create a more inclusive environment is having more LGBT members working in our police, community groups and in city government in general. The more representative we are of our city, the most inclusive we will be. But, I believe it's critically important that leaders respond forcefully when people are found to disrespect the rights of all people, including the LGBT community. That's why I recently called for the resignation of two off-duty Minneapolis police officers used anti-GLBT and derogatory language to describe Chief Jenee Harteau. That type of activity is unacceptable. That is the type of leadership that will lead to true inclusion and acceptance.

3. Block E hasn't been a great success. What would you support doing with the site to make Hennepin Avenue a better venue?

The investment in Block E predates my time on the Minneapolis City Council. But, it's true that Block E has been a disaster. Now that Block E is here, we must have a plan. I believe the next Mayor must work with potential tenants and Block E owners to ensure that the next tenants of Block E have a plan to be financially successful.

4. Mayor Rybak was an advocate for public spending on the Vikings' stadium. If the Timberwolves, for example, began demanding a new arena, how would you deal with that situation?

As the only candidate for Mayor that voted for the Vikings Stadium deal, I know the tough advocacy that Mayor Rybak led. And I was with him every step of the way. The reason I supported the deal was because it was going to bring thousands of jobs, to a construction and building trade that had been deeply hurting since the beginning of the 2008 recession, and because it enabled the city to restructure its finances for the better. This restructuring provided flexibility for the city to be able to lower property taxes on resi-

dents and businesses. In fact, Mayor Rybak just stated in his 2013 budget address that he would not have been able to propose a \$3.2 million property tax cut without the flexibility that the stadium deal provided. Those are the two reasons I did what was politically unpopular and voted for the stadium deal.

Moving forward, if the Timberwolves or any other professional sports team asked for public assistance to fund a new arena, I would demand that the use of any public dollars would assist in job creation and assist in the cash flow of city finances. I refuse to just spend public money to keep a team in our city.

5. The GLBT community members are taxpayers and as such we care about accountability for the city's budget. How would you make sure we aren't wasting money on duplicate programs or unproductive initiatives?

As a former senior executive of a Fortune 500 company, I believe that accountability and data based solutions are essential to effective leadership. That is why I led the effort to institute Results Minneapolis, a data management system that gathers information and measures the performance of nearly all city functions. This system has been transformational in understanding what programs are working, what are not and it has highlighted inefficiencies and saved taxpayer dollars.

6. What direction do you think Minneapolis should take concerning energy use and affordability for residents and businesses?

We must work with our suburban partners to set the medium term goal of becoming a zero waste city, but we can't do it alone. Roughly two thirds of the garbage burned at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) in downtown Minneapolis, comes from the suburbs. That is a big step we can take towards clean energy use. In addition, we need to provide cleaner energy options for our residents. I will also continue to support initiatives, such as the 100 green homes and solar gardens that will help maximize energy efficiency and generation of clean energy. ■



Photos by Randy Stern

LEXUS LS 460

Why do we go “all out” when we drive something luxurious?

Is it the allure of class, status and tax bracket level? Is it feeling awestruck at the amount of technology and comfort inside each one of these vehicles?

The answer to these questions comes

down to a simple rule of thumb when presented with a vehicle from an upscale brand. No matter the sticker price, these vehicles have to feel “special.”

There is enough mixture of technology, comfort and luxury on board each one to elevate your own driving experience. How-

ever, there is a pecking order amongst Lexuses. Without delving into the rarified air of the LFA supercar, the top of the range remains the LS – as it always had since 1989.

The flagship of the Lexus lineup underwent some rhinoplasty in a few places for 2013. The “spindle grille” makes its appear-

ance on the LS, giving some personality to the big sedan. It certainly is a marked improvement upon recent LS models, but is the grille enough to invite drivers to experience the “special” feeling of Lexus’ flagship.

The LS starts with its presence – even in the short wheelbase version. From the “spindle grille,” a long hood reaches to a nicely sloped windshield and a bespoke roofline. The doors are huge – still on the short wheelbase model – and open wide to accommodate everyone. The rear end is pure Lexus, with its huge taillights and sculpted decklid.

Standard eighteen-inch alloy wheels do not detract from the overall elegance of the LS. If you must have a larger presence, optional wheels are available on the regular LS 460 – in both short and long wheelbase models. You could also set the side mirrors to fold in when you lock up the LS.

Step inside those huge doors, and you are treated to a cabin worthy of its flagship status. The operative word is room – and there is a lot of it. Rear seat passengers can settle into buttery semi-aniline leather with a fold-down center armrest. There are plenty of vents and controls to make yourself right at home – in the short wheelbase model, especially.

Front seat occupants are literally sitting on thrones. These seats are big, comfortable and offer plenty of power-assisted positions to get comfortable. In this model, both front seat occupants get adjustable heated and cooled seats. However, the console is quite high, but not too obtrusive to get to the shifter, the Remote Touch controller and other functions.

The interior’s materials are quite bespoke. The roof liner in this model is alcantara, another luxury not often looked at enough. You have plenty of real wood en-

cased in protective plastic and leather everywhere you touch.

Yet, a Lexus owner would have no trouble navigating the instrument panel. Instrumentation is clear with big dials and a changeable TFT screen in-between for trip, economy and vehicle functions. The Remote Touch controller on the console handles the wide center screen for infotainment, navigation and Lexus Enform functions. All other controls are easy to use and right to the touch. In terms of safety, the standard LS short wheelbase model offers ten airbags strategically positioned to protect everyone on board.

Motivating this flagship is the standard 4.6liter V8, with 360 horsepower and 347 pound-feet of torque. This configuration works only with the all-wheel drive system. For rear-drive models, your power numbers jump to 386 horsepower and 367 pound-feet of torque. Either way, this engine is smooth and quiet. Press the throttle harder and you can feel it move and hear it roar.

Both drivelines connect to an eight-speed automatic that you cannot feel any shifts from. Just watch the tachometer to see how quickly the gears transition to the next one. This model came with all-wheel drive, providing superior grip with Dunlop SP Sport Plus tires sticking to the ground.

Three words describe the driving experience of the LS: Soft, smooth and quiet. The ride is supple, keeping everyone comfortable on even rougher surfaces. The suspension does react to lumpy surfaces, however, but does it best to keep things on an even keel. You do get a degree of roll and lean in the turns, but you will be amazed how composed the LS is for a car of its size. Steering is very sharp, though somewhat artificial in feel. Yet, you will be amazed how good of a turning radius the 200-inch long LS has to

offer. Brakes are soft to the touch, but will respond well. Expect longer than usual stops in both normal and panic situations.

However, the best part of the LS is the silence you feel inside on the road. The oft initial exhaust note or tire noise from rough surfaces are the only sounds you will hear in an otherwise hushed motoring experience. There is one thing to remember: While it is quiet, smooth and soft – the LS is far from numb. There is certainly a feeling of being alive inside this big Lexus.

The fear of owning a 4,600-pound V8-powered flagship is its impact on fuel consumption. However, this LS will surprise you. This V8-powered all-wheel drive short wheelbase model turned an average of 22.4MPG.

A basic LS 460 short wheelbase, rear-wheel drive model starts at \$72,900. This all-wheel drive, short wheelbase example came with a sticker price of \$79,249. If you must have everything, the hybrid LS 600h L long wheelbase model is available with all of the boxes ticked at \$134,875.

There will be plenty of people who would admit being completely smitten by the Lexus LS. It certainly had a “special” feeling... being at ease with the world, despite even being daunted by its size at times. It is a wonderful luxury sedan.

The key to these thoughts about the Lexus LS is how it was just uncomplicated to drive. Once you get past the Remote Touch, operating the LS is simple. This could be a measure of a flagship you could be on board with.

We can argue on which flagship sedan would be suitable for those with the means to own one. If you happen to be one with the finances to do so, you might consider the Lexus LS as your next flagship.

You could at least go “all out” when you drive one. ■



BIGGAYNEWS.COM: YOUR GLBT WORLD NEWS!

**BIGGAYNEWS FROM MINNESOTA:****Minnesota's Gay Marriage Allies Are At Odds**

The *Star Tribune* reports that the organization that led the charge to legalize same-sex marriage in Minnesota is now under fire for backing legislators who oppose abortion. Sarah Jane Johnston, president of Minnesota National Organization for Women, has expressed her disappointment in Minnesota United for not standing with them in withdrawing support for legislators who do not support abortion rights, when Minnesota NOW helped Minnesota United with their political efforts regarding same-sex marriage rights. Minnesota United is gearing up to defend legislators who supported the same-sex marriage bill and who could potentially lose their seats in upcoming elections, and Ann Kaner-Roth, co-chairwoman of the Minnesotans United PAC, says that they do not have plans to deviate from their plan.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM PENNSYLVANIA:**Frank Schaefer, Pennsylvania Pastor Who Officiated Gay Son's Wedding, Will Face Trial At Methodist Panel**

The *Huffington Post* reports that a Pennsylvania pastor will reportedly be forced to stand trial in front of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church for officiating his son's same-sex wedding six years ago. Schaefer officiated the 2006 wedding in Massachusetts, which legalized same-sex unions in 2004, but the law book of the United Methodist Church does not recognize or permit gay marriage. While Schaefer knew of the possible ramifications of his actions, he stated: "The love for my son took over the fear of losing my job with the United Methodist Church. It was a tough decision in some sense, but I just knew I had to make it. I had to follow my heart."

BIGGAYNEWS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE:**Dartmouth Trustees Approve Residence Hall For Lesbian, Gay, Allied Students**

The *Concord Monitor* reports that Dartmouth College plans to open a student residence hall for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and allied students by fall 2014. The Board of Trustees for the college approved the construction of the building, to be called the Triangle House, at a proposed cost of \$3.6 million. Funds will come from residential life program reserve funds as well as campus and alumni fundraising. The residence hall will provide housing for 27 students, along with a small apartment for an advisor.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM ILLINOIS:**Coffee Chain Apologizes For Erasing Gay-Straight Alliance Artwork**

The *Chicago Tribune* reports that members of a high school gay-straight alliance in Northbrook expressed disappointment that their window decoration at a local Caribou Coffee was erased last week, but they said they hope something good can come from it. The group from Glenbrook North High was among a number of school clubs who decorated windows of local

businesses for the school's homecoming week, but soon noticed that their display, which included a variety of rainbow colors along with male, female and transgender symbols, had been cleaned from the store's window. A statement issued by Caribou stated that the particular store did not follow company guidelines in regards to being "accepting of all individuals, regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation", and the school group hopes that this will result in the local store reaching out to them.

1- BIGGAYNEWS FROM ITALY:**Italian Pasta Baron's Anti-Gay Comment Prompts Boycott Call**

Reuters reports that Guido Barilla, chairman of the world's leading pasta manufacturer, prompted calls for a consumer boycott on Thursday after telling Italian radio his company would never use a gay family in its advertising. Barilla's reasoning, stated in an interview, was not that they don't respect the GLBT community, but that they don't agree with them and feel that showing a gay couple undermines the family unit in which "the woman plays a fundamental role". The stand has resulted in outrage, both from gay rights groups as well as women's groups, and Aurelio Mancuso, head of Equality Italia, called for a boycott of the company's products.

2- BIGGAYNEWS FROM PAKISTAN:**Pakistan Blocks First Gay Website Queerpk, Deeming It "Un-Islamic"**

The *Huffington Post* reports that Pakistan's Internet watchdog has blocked the deeply conservative Muslim country's first website aimed at gay people, saying it was "against Islam". The website was set up to assist members of the GLBT community in Pakistan, where homosexuality is illegal, to socialize, share experiences, and communicate with one another in a social media forum. The moderator of the site, who requested anonymity, said that the ban will not be challenged in the court system for fear of negative reprisal.

3- BIGGAYNEWS FROM RUSSIA:**Amid Putin's Crackdown, Sochi Gay Scene Thrives**

The *Huffington Post* reports that a man named Ravil catapults onto the dance floor and starts stomping out the lezginka, the arrogant rooster strut of the Chechen national dance—a spontaneous performance made even more unusual by the fact that he's in one of the two gay clubs in Sochi, the southern Russian town that will host the Winter Olympics amid Vladimir Putin's harsh crackdown on gays. Andrei Tenichev, owner of the club Mayak, hopes that there will at least be tacit cooperation with the local government during the Winter Games, if for no other reason than to avoid scandal right before the event. Tenichev feels that the gay community in Sochi has a better chance of withstanding Putin's crackdown because the city is a bustling resort town that has more of a "What-happens-in-Sochi-stays-in-Sochi" appeal than many other parts of Russia.

4- BIGGAYNEWS FROM SERBIA:**Serbia: UN Rights Office Urges Protection Of Gay Rights After Pride Parade Is Cancelled**

The UN News Centre reports that the United Nations human rights office today urged Serbian authorities to ensure the GLBT community can exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association, following the Government's decision to cancel the pride parade in Belgrade last weekend for the third year in a row. Authorities maintain that the decision is based on security concerns, in light of the 2010 event being marred by violence, attacks and vandalism. Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, disagrees, stating: "Responding to violent attacks against a vulnerable community, such as GLBT, by banning them from peacefully gathering and expressing themselves further violates their fundamental human rights, and rewards their attackers." □

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Two Questions

After seventeen years of therapy with a half dozen therapists, an extremely sad divorce due to a horrible case of gender dysphoria (mine), bottles and bottles of Chardonnay and Heineken consumed, and countless tears—by yours truly and others—my on-going journey of self-discovery has come down to just two questions:

Am I being honest with myself?

Do I love myself?

Really simple questions to ask. Not so easy to answer.

But before I get all preachy and know-it-all here, let me interpose a disclaimer.

I don't hold myself out as some enlightened guru, nor do I have the wisdom market cornered. Not by a longshot. There are many far smarter folks than me out there in Readerland. A few of them even peruse my columns. Still, some people seem to appreciate my perspective, so I'll proceed.

Plus, I've got a deadline to make.

First, the honesty question.

Every day, we have hundreds of opportunities to lie to ourselves. You name it: *Is this job healthy for me? Does she love me or just need me? And vice versa? Am I really cut out to be a multinational banker? It'll be okay if he doesn't use a condom, right?*

And oh yes, my all-time personal favorite: *Am I really going to have just one glass of wine?*

How in the world can we keep ourselves honest to ourselves?

It's no small task. We humans are easily distracted—*oh, hold on, there's my phone*—which means it's difficult to do the one thing

that's guaranteed to lead to honesty:

Think.

Thinking takes a lot of work. It necessitates analysis and pondering pros and cons. Thoughts invariably tie to emotions, which in turn relate to memories, some of which may be really crappy.

Why would anyone needlessly put themselves through such misery?

On top of emotional baggage as a cause for self-dishonesty, there's naiveté and ignorance. I'm a prime example.

Back when I lived as a dude, I told myself that vague thoughts about trading penis for vagina were nothing serious.

I'll grow out of it, I believed. This stuff in my head will go away, I self-assured.

For nearly four decades I said such things to me.

One would think that I'd have gotten smarter—and more honest—by year 22 or 31, but no, that wasn't me.

Because the truth (which meant radically changing my life and hurting so many people) was too much to take.

Eventually, I had no choice but to *think*. I did it by talking to myself out loud—in the car, in the shower, on long walks. I also journaled with real pen and paper; there's something sacred about written words to one's self.

In the end, self-honesty happened. I was extremely lucky to get there.

By the way, in case you're wondering, that vagina thing is working out quite nicely, thank you very much.

If screwed-up Ellie Krug can do self-hon-

esty, anyone can. Trust me.

Now for the second question, that one about loving one's self.

Just in case there's any confusion, I'm talking about something more than a five minute hand exercise.

What does it mean to say, *Yes, I love myself?*

Hmmm. That's a tough one.

Every day we're bombarded with the message that a BMW or a Schwab account or unrealistic sales figures are the true measures of one's worth. In turn, it's easy to suffer when we don't measure up to what or who the greater world says we should be. On top of that, how many of us have had important people in our lives put us down or say that we're not good enough in one way or another?

For us GLBT people, that includes being bullied.

One more thing; don't get me started on Catholic guilt (note: I'm a former Catholic) and the concept of original sin.

In short, the deck is stacked against us loving ourselves almost from the moment we're born. It takes real work to scrape and claw one's psyche to where you're able to say, *I'm a decent person and I love myself.*

I won't pretend that I've got self-love down entirely. I may still be working on it on my deathbed. Still, that doesn't mean we should avoid asking the question.

Because life should be lived.

It's not something to simply endure. □

Ellie Krug is the author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change*. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com





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The Smell of Lilac

When I was in Palm Springs recently, I met a lesbian in her 70's from Los Angeles. We were staying at the same resort, which happens to be the former estate of Sonja Henie. Now, for you kids out there, Henie was a Norwegian figure skater and film star, who was Adolf Hitler's famous movie star. She was also, weirdly, one of the highest paid actresses in Hollywood in the 1930s and '40s.

Quick quiz: without looking at Wikipedia, name one Sonja Henie movie. Ha! Neither could I.

But this column isn't about Sonja Henie. It's about another movie star. And that star's ironing board.

Now, my Palm Springs isn't the sleazy hunting ground of the annual Dinah Shore golf tourney. As many of you know, that's the weekend when lesbians of the world descend on this desert town and have sex with each other. It's the only lesbian "circuit party" but it's really much more of a "circus party." All the girls slather themselves in oil, cram into a pool at a low-rent motel and do acrobatics. Oh, and there's always a lot of weeping. Too much sun + too many lite beers + too many sloppy makeout sessions = a lot of tears.

When I come to Palm Springs, I prefer

to swan about at luxury resorts that used to play host to the disgusting sexcapades of the big stars of yesteryear. Why? Because I've got class!

Palm Springs is 99 miles from the big film studios of yore, so it became the Gomorrah for stars whose contracts said they weren't allowed to travel more than 100 miles from Hollywood while filming. It was an escape for actors who wanted to get as far away from Louis B. Mayer and the other big bosses as their leashes would allow.

It was in Palm Springs that some of old Hollywood's most delicious scandals took place. Even Doris Day kept a cabana here! And if you've read Doris Day's autobiography—and if you haven't you should do so immediately—you know how much she loved sex.

During my recent stay, I found myself chatting with a lovely lady in the chaise next to me. She was sporting a large sunbonnet and wearing a cheerful Lilly Pulitzer caftan. As I finished my glass of wine, I rose and began to excuse myself. It was time to prepare for dinner and I needed to iron my clothes, I explained.

She looked up wistfully and said, "I once had sex on Natalie Wood's ironing board."

I sat back down.

"You had sex with Natalie Wood on an ironing board?" I asked in delight and amazement.

"No, dear," she said, spearing a cocktail olive. "I had sex with another woman. But it was on Natalie Wood's ironing board."

"But why an ironing board? And why Natalie Wood's ironing board?"

"I was much more spry back then," she said. This was the perfect explanation even though it in no way answered my question.

"Where was Natalie Wood during all this?" I asked.

"In her bedroom. With someone else," she said.

"Man or woman?" I demanded.

The lady took a sip from her martini and studied me. "Can I trust you to be discrete?"

"Absolutely not!" I exclaimed. "If you tell me that Natalie Wood slept with a woman I will tell everyone. I will stop strangers in the street and tell them the news."

"Well, then, let's just say it was the 1960's and it was Palm Springs. And to quote Talulah Bankhead on the fluidity of sexuality: 'It's not the cock. And it's not the twat. It's the eyes, don't you know. And sometimes the smell of lilac.'" □

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

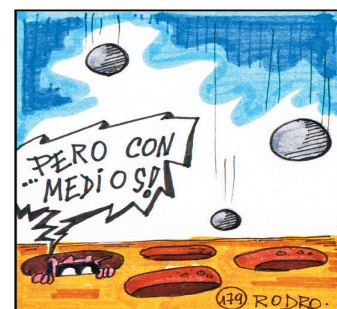
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Disneyland Has Fallen: The Magic of Prop 8

As told to the author by Stephen P.

I grew up in Disneyland's backyard. Literally. My family's home in Anaheim was close enough to the amusement park that I could watch fireworks over the Magic Kingdom. The whole idea Disneyland put before the world captivated me: it was the Happiest Place on Earth, a world in which everyone had friends, where busy fantasy lands thrived, where music permeated. Disneyland was where dreams came true. Disneyland was magical, and there it was, right there in my backyard.

I've always loved that word, "magical." Magic is what I felt Disneyland meant to me then: a potion made of happiness, love, and music.

Fast-forward to November 5, 2008. I'm at a wonderful place in my life. I live in Los Angeles, and I'm pursuing my passion: a career in music. I'm music director of a Presbyterian church choir, a conductor of a children's choir, and am in my fifth year as the music director of the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood. I lead the proverbial Disneyland life: a magical one.

I'm driving down Santa Monica Boulevard when I hear on the radio that Proposition 8, the state ballot measure to prohibit same-sex marriage, passed the night before. The unwaveringly liberal California electorate had voted to kill same-sex marriage.

This is when my chipper life, full of chipper friends and chipper work, comes crashing down. I see immediately that Disneyland has been a lie all along, a cardboard backdrop hiding a villainous political game vicious

enough to steal hard-fought human rights.

I feel as if I might careen off road, my shock is so brilliant. But I'm immediately engulfed in anger. There is no time for shock. There is no time for sadness. Disneyland has fallen. I decide in my Prius on the morning of November 5 that I will use whatever I have to help reverse this bullshit.

Cue the montage that recaps the next four years: I'm joining the Equal Roots Coalition as an activist, I'm directing three or four choirs at any given time, I'm volunteering time to activism, I'm teaching music, I'm volunteering more time to activism, I'm performing in musicals, I'm volunteering yet more time to activism, I'm helping behind-the-scenes in musical theatre, I'm volunteering more and more time to activism. And more and more time. And more. And more. And more. And more. I will stop at nothing, and I—

I'm suddenly the artistic director of the University Choir in Los Angeles. I have control over what content our shows will present. The Choir's board gives me tremendous autonomy. With this power, I will combine music with activism.

It's September 2012 when I accept this position. My first show as head honcho is in June 2013. It will be the musical event of my life. It will be a show not of GLBT equality, but of equality for all. It will be a show not of anger, but of love and peace.

Love and peace. Yes. The show will be *Voices for Love and Peace*. From this idea I develop the concert: it will begin in travesty, in war, in hate, and end in purity, in happi-

ness, in peace. It will end in magic.

Nine months pass. It's June 16, 2013. I'm standing on a stage in front of hundreds of audience members, about to present the most important concert of my career.

There are sounds of people settling in their seats. There are people quietly wrapping up conversations. There are before me hundreds of people of every race, of every creed, of every sexuality, all doing the same, mundane things. They're sitting, they're whispering, they're settling. And I know that behind every face exists the same hope: that they are loved, that they are happy. There are faces of different colors, tied together tonight with a sense of common humanity.

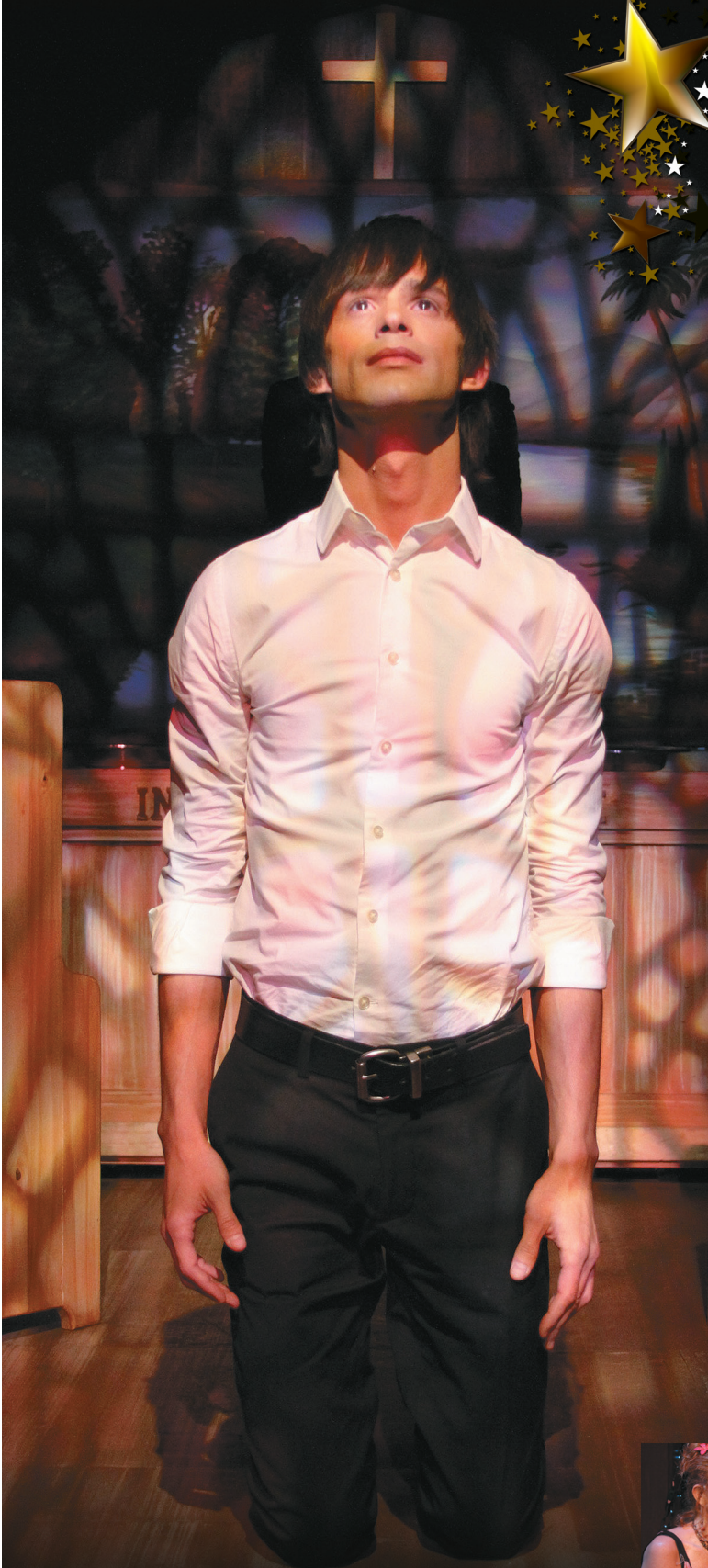
"My name is Stephen," I begin, clearing my throat. "I'm with the University Choir. Tonight's show is about love and peace. By the time we take our bows this evening, I hope you've been moved in some way. I hope we've inspired you somehow, to think of love not as a political issue, but as a human one."

We performed ten days before the United States Supreme Court abolished Proposition 8.

I grew up in Disneyland's backyard. I grew up in the land of magic, in the land where dreams come true. And I still believe they do. But dreams do not come from Magic Kingdoms. They do not come from the Happiest Place on Earth.

Dreams come from you and me. And it is us who make them come true.

Stephen P. lives in Los Angeles. □



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